



**Transfiguration Sunday, Sunday, February 19, 2023**  
**St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor   Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist  
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director   Lori Roelse, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

St. James: *Be Thou My Vision*

**Call To Worship:**

God, we come to the mountaintop to be covered in your presence.

We are comforted by your holiness and your glow;  
we are comforted by the hope of the mountain top,  
where you are so close, so accessible,  
where there is no doubt of your glory

**The mountain top reminds us why we worship you.**  
**We witness your bright power,**  
**and your plan for the nations of the earth.**

As we prepare for worship,  
God bring us to the mountain top;  
bring us to the mountain top  
so that we may be inspired to do your work  
in the valley below.

### **Prayer:**

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts' desire is to bask in the amazing glory of your divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory. May we hear your voice speaking to us and saying, ... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" *Amen.*

### **Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried:**

**He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. *Amen.***

### **Hymn of Praise:**

St. Mark's: (#245)

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

St. James: (#394)

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (Vs. 1,2,5,6)*

### **Baptismal Sacrament:**

Payton Faith Beck (Sara Faith Wippermann and Nicholas Raymond Beck)

### **Young at Heart:**



### **Prayer of Confession:**

Holy One, we come before you, many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain, and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to point to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy, with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with illness, with despair for all in the world that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more. We trudge ahead, following you, stumbling, hoping, praying... breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes, even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord, to the top of that mountain, where we might be dazzled by your Light, lifted by what is Divine, filled by the sheer delight of what is numinous and ethereal and grounded and real. We pray this, for ourselves, for one another, and for the world in which we live. *Amen.*

**Words of Assurance:**

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses, and the God of Jesus desires mercy more than sacrifice and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings. Let us love God and do the right thing; may we call forgiveness our friend and mercy our true companion as we receive it in our own lives so shall we give it to others. *Amen.*

**Hymn:**

St. Mark's: (#425)

St. James Choral Anthem

*Christ Beside Me  
Umoja Tunaimba*

**Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 17:1-9

**Message:**

*Glimpse the Kingdom*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Hymn of Response:**

St. Mark's: (#99)

St. James: (#217)

*You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd  
Rock of Ages*

**Offering:**

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

**Offertory Music:**

St. Mark's: *More About Jesus*

St. James: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Creator God of infinite patience, we see you in every plant that grows and blossoms, every creature that runs or flies, in mountains and sunsets and in every drop of rain that falls. Creation is not something that happened, but something that is happening every day. As we share our tithes and offerings today, we pray you, through Jesus, will continue the work of creation in us, that we might become more tolerant, more forgiving, more generous, and more loving. In that name, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we pray. *Amen.*

**Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

**Hymn of Sending:**

St. Mark's: (#121)

St. James: (#480)

*Christ is the World's Light  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

**Benediction:**

... Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, in all that you are, and in all you will be. To the glory of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.*

**Postlude:**

St. Mark's: *Praise Ye The Father*  
St. James: *Immortal, Invisible*

Matthew 17:1-9 ESV

*And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.*

*And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."*



Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:  
St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)