

February 21, 2021  
St. Mark's United Church of Christ  
St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz  
Pastor

Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn  
Organist

Prelude Music  
Gathering in Readiness for Worship

*What Wonderful Love Is This*

**Call to Worship:**

L: We gather together

**P: A community of faith in God's world.**

L: We gather to celebrate

**P: That no darkness can extinguish light,**

L: And to remember

**P: That love will always be more powerful than death,**

L: And to trust

**P: That peace will always be stronger than violence.**

**A: We gather, people of faith in the light of God's world.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
We come convinced of many things but trusting very few.  
Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place  
as we touch that which we cannot see that which we have not dared to hope.  
Bless us with that we might feel your Holy presence with us today. *Amen.*

**Song of Prayer:**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**Prayer of Confession:**

God of Mercy and Grace, you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth  
to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:  
You give us the ministry of reconciliation:  
You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John  
on the mountain of Transfiguration:  
You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:  
You bless our lives with boundless love:  
Forgive us those times when we have failed to live up to your expectations.  
Transform us by your Spirit and your Word into that which pleases you,  
the image of Christ. *Amen.*

**Words of Assurance ~ *Here is the good news:***

Jesus lives! He is raised! We are forgiven! Let us share the vision of God's  
kingdom where all are loved and valued. Tell of God's grace and mercy! In this  
God is well pleased! *Amen.*

**Song of Assurance:**

*Glory Be to God, the Father*

**Scripture Reading:**

Exodus 3:7-10, 15

**Message:**

**[Beginnings]** *Can I Trust God?*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Praising God in Music:**

*Angel Voices Ever Singing*

**A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:**

Gracious God, in love You created us, and in love You sustain us, day after day.  
So, it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to You, knowing that You hear  
us, and will respond. We pray for the world around us, for the many who continue  
to suffer and call out for help:

for those without enough to eat.

for those without warm shelter.

for those caught up in violence, abuse and neglect.

for those picking up the pieces after a natural disaster.

for those desperate to find work to support their families.

Gracious God hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer. *Amen.*

**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](http://stmstjucc.org)).

**Offertory Music:**

*I Bind My Heart This Tide*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)**

God of all good gifts,  
who gives freely to us,  
have mercy on us and grant us the peace  
that only the Prince of Peace can provide.

Grant that our lives would be an offering,  
and that our work would be a good gift,  
just as the gifts the magi brought,  
pleasing to you and fit for the king of all creation.

We look to you, our Prophet, Priest and King,  
to rule the world with justice, and to give salvation to all who call upon you. *Amen.*

**A Sending Forth Song:**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**Benediction**

Maybe in this there is a glimpse of the kingdom  
a foretaste  
a hint  
a promise.

Let it hold you and let it send you so you will never be at peace  
until all are fed  
until all know home  
until all are free  
until justice is done  
until peace is the way  
until grace is the law  
until love is the rule  
until God's realm comes

Go now, with the blessing of the Holy Spirit, to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*Amen.*

**Postlude**

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**LENTEN WORSHIP- Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at St. Mark's UCC.**

**This Week's Celebrations:**

**Birthdays:** February 21<sup>st</sup> – Linda Schroeder, Reid Vandoske  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Scott Dexter, Peter Grunwald, Tom Nye  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Betty Sixel  
25<sup>th</sup> – Myron Hickman, Jason Riesterer, Bill Roelse  
26<sup>th</sup> – Rieck Beiersdorf, Amy Bodah, Amy Summers  
27<sup>th</sup> – Karie Ladwig

**Anniversary:**

February 26<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Laurie Heckmann



**Exodus 3:7-10, 15**

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.