



**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

**St. Mark's United Church of Christ  
St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz  
Pastor

Kathy Jurk  
Organist

Prelude Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

**Call to Worship (responsively):**

L: Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving kindness.

**P: We know full well our misdeeds; look for truth in our inmost being.**

L: Create in us a pure heart, O God,

**P: And deliver us from death O, God, our Savior.**

L: Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**P: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of salvation – of saving acts to all people; God of promises for future fulfillment, equip us in this hour of worship to live fully in the present. Make your ways known to us and teach us your truth. Lead your humble servants in the way you would have us go. Be patient with us, we pray, for we are trying to be faithful.

Amen.

**Song of Prayer:**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

**Prayer of Confession:**

With trembling hearts, we turn to the Eternal One. Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Come to the One who takes no delight in burnt offerings, but lovingly accepts the humble spirit and the sincere prayers of the penitent. Have mercy on us Lord. Forgive us our sins. Purge us and we will be clean. Wash us and we will be purer than new fallen snow. Grant us, O God, a new and right spirit. Amen.

**Words of Assurance (together): All Confirmands**

**Jesus Christ who died for our sins to atone for our trespasses; through him we have been reconciled to God and made partners in the new covenant. God is compassionate and merciful, granting us clean hearts and new life in Christ. Rejoice! Let our words show forth the Creator's praise. Amen.**

**Song of Assurance:**

*Be Still My Soul*

**Scripture Reading:**

Luke 13:31-35

**Message:**

[God On The Move] God moves past all obstacles  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Praising God in Music:**

*Marching to Zion*

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

Loving, Creating God, you are in covenant with your people. You have pledged to be our God and ask us to be your people, trusting in you in all our ways. We may find excuses to prevent us from really trusting you. We may erect barriers before our faith journey even begins. Our time, obligations, energy, all become part of the bricks and mortar which fashion this barrier. Help us to tear down these barriers and guide us in rebuilding bridges of connection to you and to the people in our lives. Make us ready for the journey by replacing the fear in our hearts with a sense of joy and challenge of self-discovery and discipleship. Remind us that in service to you, helping others, we will also find ourselves made more fully whole. As we have spoken the names of our friends, and family members, and other situations in which healing and comfort are needed, let us remember that we, too, stand in need of prayer and healing. Make us ready to receive your good news and then to be witnesses to your love to all your people. 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)).

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

We remember your steadfast love and mercy, which have removed our shame and drawn us into covenant with you, O God. Through these offerings we give thanks for your patience and loving-kindness. Let these offering be multiplied, even as Jesus multiplied the loaves of bread and a few fish to feed thousands, to serve our church, community and beyond. Amen.

### **A Sending Forth Song**

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

### **Benediction**

The first step on the journey, that of readiness, is one of the hardest. We keep thinking that we have forgotten something. God has called you by name, to this journey. You will have all that you need. Go in peace to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ and know that God is going with you. Amen.

### **Postlude**

### **Luke 13:31-35 NRSV**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"