



1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 26, 2023

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist Jacob Grunwald, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Rock of Ages

Call To Worship:

L: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

P: We are learning to follow Jesus.

L: For those who feel Christ near,

P: May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.

L: For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

P: May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.

L: For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

P: May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.

L: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

P: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

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. James: (#87)

St. Mark's: (#451)

Be Still My Soul

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Creator God, you made us to be neighbors, members of one family blessed with great diversity. You created us to be helpers and friends to one another, entrusting to us your justice and your joy. Yet we have denied justice and joy to many, creating worlds of poverty, pain, lost opportunities, and absence of hope. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray to be transformed.

Brief period of silence

Words of Assurance:

Loving God, you restore us to each other and to you, mending our hearts and repairing the world. Through the power of your Spirit, you shape us to be for others what Christ is for us: pardon and peace, new life and blessing. We give you thanks for your love, forgiveness, and constant presence. *Amen.*

Hymn:

St. James: (#254)

St. Mark's Choral Anthem

Jesus, I Live to Thee

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 4:1-11

Message:

We Fall Down

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response:

Trust and Obey

St. James: (#33 - Binder) [Vs 1, 3, 4, 5]

St. Mark's: (#443)

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:

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (Based on Matthew 4:1-11)

Generous God, as we remember Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we acknowledge the temptation that pursues so many of us: to measure our worth, our power and our security by what we have. As we offer these gifts to you this morning, we pray that you might deliver us from the temptation of building our lives around what belongs to us. Continually lead us to the conviction that what matters is that we belong to you. We pray in the name of our Savior and Redeemer. *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. James: (#38 - Binder)

St. Mark's: (#428)

*You Are Salt of the Earth
When Peace Like a River*

Benediction:

Scriptures say that we need more than bread for our lives; we must feed on every word of God. Go, now and feast on the words of the Most High, Creator God. Be overwhelmed by God's goodness and let your life be your praise, until we meet again. Go 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 our God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Once to Every Man and Nation

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

*"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,"

and

*"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."*

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

*"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve."*

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com