



February 28, 2021
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

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Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Randy Sohn/Kathy Jurk
Organist

Medative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship

STJ: *Father, We Praise Thee*
STM: *Jesus, Lead Thou On*

Call to Worship:

L: Come, children of God, to sing a new song, clap your hands and shout for joy.

P: Jesus is our good news, our joy, and our salvation.

L: In steadfast love and faithfulness God has done marvelous things.

P: God raised Jesus from the dead; Christ is alive and at work among us.

L: The ends of the earth turn to God; all families of nations worship our Creator.

P: Christ is the vine; we are the branches. With Christ we can do anything.

Opening Prayer:

We come to you, Loving God, needing the love you alone can give. Your love comes to us in Jesus, bringing abundant life for all who will receive it. Empower us by your love to love one another; abide in us to perfect your gift within and among us. *Amen.*

Young at Heart

Song of Prayer:



Come, We Who Love the Lord

Prayer of Confession:

We who are called to preach repentance and forgiveness to all others, take time to recognize sin in ourselves. We need to confess our sin, to find pardon and peace. Lord, we confess we often prefer our own way and seek to appease our own selfish desires. Yet, you have called us to something far greater. Turn us around, God, and help us to devote ourselves to your way. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance:

God gives us eternal life in Jesus Christ, beginning here and now for all who repent and believe. Christ will keep us from all evil. Christ will forgive our sins. Christ will raise us up in God's sovereignty. Praise be to our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Assurance:

Glory Be to God, the Father

Scripture Reading:

Acts 8:26-

38

Message:

[Beginnings] *How Does God Speak to*

Me?

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Praising God in Music:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer ... Lord's Prayer

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:

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

Send us and our offerings where they are needed in your world, O God. May we witness to Christ's resurrection, be apostles of your love, and share eternal life with one another. Expand our joy in giving of ourselves, our very substance, and the truth of your Word. *Amen.*

A Sending Forth Song

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessings

Benediction

Place your trust in God's guidance. Go into this world that is in such need of hope and healing with the love of Christ in your hearts. Though the journey is long, God will sustain you. Go in peace to love and serve our Lord and may God's peace always go with you. *Amen*

Postlude

Acts 8:26-38 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized? He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

LENTEN WORSHIP- Wednesday, March 3rd, 7pm at St. James UCC.

This Week's Celebrations:

Birthdays: February 28th – Poppy Binversie, Gary Sixel
29th – Eunice Stolzmann, Walter Taylor
March 1st - Eric Grotegut, Katharine Grunwald
3rd – Karra Cina. Tracy Steinbeck
4th – James Luckow
6th - Wyatt Henschel

Anniversary: March 2nd – Dave & Cindy Call

