



Sunday, February 5, 2023

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Sandy Perronne, Reader

Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Hymn For Brotherhood*

St. James: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Call To Worship:

L: This is the day of God's own creation;

P: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

L: Jesus Christ, whom the bonds of death could not contain;

P: We are witnesses to this amazing good news!

L: Turn from your weeping and mourning. Put aside the ways of death;

P: We are being raised with Christ to a new way of life!

L: Let the blessings of the resurrection continue into our day-to-day life;

P: The Risen Christ meets us here, bringing us new life and hope!

Prayer:

You are the first and the last; alpha and omega; before all time and after all time. There is none to compare. Confront us with the breath of your Holy Spirit. Transform our lives. Break through our reserve to set us free from our own set ways that we may lean into new life in, through and with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Gloria Patri:

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

Hymn of Praise:

St. Mark's: (#93 Worship & Rejoice)

St. James: (#435 The Hymnal)

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Praise to God Immortal Praise

Young at Heart:



St. Mark's Hymn: (#248 Worship & Rejoice)

St. James Choral Anthem:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

The Gift of Love

Prayer of Confession:

God, you know there are days when we see others not following you; not "behaving" the way you call us to and the way we think they should be. And we want you to punish them. We see people spreading hate and fear and know this isn't your way. We see people mistreating each other and we are angry. We understand why James and John asked, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" And we know just like Jesus rebuked the disciples, you would tell us this is not your way. Forgive us for wanting to repay hate with hate and violence with violence.

God, we promised to follow you. And yet, so many other things pull at our time and attention. We will follow you as soon as our to do list is tackled, our house is clean enough for company, and we've cared for our family. Forgive us God, for not putting you first in our lives.

God, we ask that you give us righteous anger at the injustice in the world and that you help us to have our priorities in order, so we may follow you.

Words of Assurance:

Let us always remember that our God is merciful and loving. God hears us when we call. May we find forgiveness and comfort in these words from Psalm 16 "God, you show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Message: *Change the Church: Change the World*

Luke 5:33-6:5

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response:

(#422 Worship & Rejoice; #2 Binder)

Amazing Grace

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: *I Will Serve Thee*

St. James: *Softly and Tenderly*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (based on Exodus 33:12-23)

Lord of Love and Compassion: How easy the road of discipleship would be if all you asked from us were the gifts we bring to your altar. How convenient would it be if we could write a check or swipe a card and leave here to live like so many do, focused exclusively on our own wants, needs, and passions? Remind us again, as we present our tithes and offerings, that the real challenge of discipleship comes when we leave this place, as you send us into the world to respond in radical love to those who would judge us, hurt us, and threaten us. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who loved and forgave, even as he was tortured and nailed to a cross. *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. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending:

St. Mark's: (#712 Worship & Rejoice)

St. James: (#286 Hymnal)

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Who is on the Lord's Side?

Benediction:

... Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Mark's: *March for the New Year*

St. James *Sing to the Lord a New Song*

Luke 5:33-6:11 ESV

And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink. And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?" And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.



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