

February 7, 2021
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Randy Sohn
Organist

Prelude Music
Gathering in Readiness for Worship

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

Opening Prayer of Worship:

L: God, we gather on this day to begin a week of contrasts. From hope to despair to hope again.

P: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

L: As we begin the week, as we join with the crowd help us cut through the noise to see what is happening, to see what is at stake.

P: Praise Him, all creatures here below;

L: As the story unfolds, open us to both the hope and the pain.

P: Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

L: In this time of worship, prepare us to celebrate, to weep, and to wait.

P: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

We pray in the name of the one who leads the parade as we share the words he shared with his closest friends:

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.

Song of Prayer:

Hark, Hark, My Soul

Prayer of Confession:

God did not say, "You shall not be tempted;

you shall not be troubled; you shall not be distressed."

God *did* say, "You shall not be overcome."

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led into the wilderness, where he was tempted.

Sheltering God, Guiding God,

as you were present with Jesus in his wilderness experience, so you are present with us:

you have urged us to trust you:

"Love me and call upon me, and I will answer you, I will be with you in trouble and will honor you."

We have felt discouraged,

and at times even abandoned and betrayed by you, O God,

when all manner of things have not gone well with us. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance:

Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us!

God is our clothing in which love enwraps us, holds us, and all encloses us because of God's tender love, so that God may never leave us. We are protected safely in love—in woe as in well—by the goodness of God.

God urges us, "*Keep the word near you, even on your lips and in your heart...*

This word is your salvation."

As we worship today, with the word on our lips and in our hearts, experience the salvation of God for all manner of things in our lives. In the promise, presence, and power of God for all manner of things. *Amen.*

Song of Assurance:

Christ Will Come Again

Scripture Reading:

Luke 19:1-10

Message:

[Beginnings] *Why Am I Not Where I Want to Be?*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer

Pray Together

Lord of our richest encounters

you heard the hidden cry of Zacchaeus

to welcome you into his home.

Teach us too hear the whispers of the world,

to feel its pain, and then bravely voice

so may cries for justice, and for peace.

Offering, Tithes and Gifts can be made on-line through our website (**St. James Only**), or by mailing your offering to:

St. James UCC, 13312 Pioneer Road, Newton, WI 53063 OR

St. Mark's UCC, W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland, WI 53015

Offertory Music

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Johann Sebastian Bach
Performed by Grace Schultz (violin) and Brenda Schultz (flute)

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

Like Habukkuk, the prophet of old we search for the ways of God in the world.
We bring these offerings as symbols of our commitment to continue the search
for peace with justice in our local and global communities.

We offer these gifts because we know that change is possible. Like Zacchaeus, we
know that God's love can work through us transforming and enabling us to live in
God's way. We offer these gifts for the transformation of ourselves and our world
for the good of all. Amen.

~ written by Jennifer Watts (United Church of Christ Canada)

A Sending Forth Song

I Love To Tell The Story

Benediction

Go now and speak of what you have seen of God's glory.
Do not cling to the holy moments
when heaven overshadows you,
but as the Lord lives, listen to Christ and follow him
from the places of revelation
to the places of mission.

And may God shine the light of glory into your hearts.
May Christ be with you and never leave you.
And may the Spirit renew the image of God within you.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

Postlude

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Special Reading

Behind Each Door

As you and I walk down this terraced street
Where all the houses seem to be from a common mold
And each door looks the same,
It would be easy to be mistaken
And assume that those inside each house
Are from a common mold.

You and I know, Lord,
That each household has a different story
Of happiness, heartache, and health,

wealth, weariness, and worry,
sadness, solitude, and sickness,
energy, encouragement, and excitement.

I see pictures of biblical villages,
With square white houses all the same,
When the same assumption could be made.
Yet you cut through all of that
And treated everyone differently:

'Follow ...'; 'Return ...'; 'Give away ...';
'Be reborn ...'; 'Tell everyone ...'; 'Keep silent ...'.

Keep me alive, Lord,
To the special uniqueness
Behind each door.

~ written by Martin Wallace,



This Week We Celebrate:

Birthdays:

February 8th - Trevor Schueler;

9th - Hillary Hermann, Kari Langenhahn, Ron Vandoske;

10th - Elliot Gumm, Jon Herrmann, Briana Riesterer, Sue Vandoske;

12th - Amanda Russart

No Anniversaries this upcoming week