



WEDNESDAY. March 24, 2021
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk, Organist

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude for Gathering for Worship

"Are You Able" Said the Master

Call to Worship (responsively):

L: Come and sit at the feet of Jesus, to worship and hear God's message for you.
P: We count everything else as loss because knowing Jesus is worth so much more.

L: God has done great things for us and is doing a new thing among us now.
P: We come not because we are righteous, but because our faith compels us to stand with Christ.

L: The power of Christ's resurrection is ours to proclaim and to share.
P: Forget what lies behind. We press toward the goal of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer:

We are humbled as we gather to celebrate your name. You are with us in our tears and in our shouts of joy. You uphold us in times of sowing and times of reaping. You stand by us when we complain and withhold and when we are thankful and generous. Move us now to be more like Christ, in whose name we worship. *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.

Song of Prayer:

What Wonderful Love is This?

Prayer of Confession:

At the feet of Jesus, we see the contrast between the Christ and ourselves. We are not worthy to represent Jesus Christ to one another or to the world. So, we bring once more our prayers of confession, asking God to remove from us all deceit and unfaithfulness.

O God, we have hidden impure thoughts behind pious words and covered up selfish actions with good works that draw attention to ourselves rather than to the Gospel. We have ignored your law as if it did not apply to us, or tried to keep its letter without being changed by the grace and power of its author. Forgive us, we pray, and save us from this way of death. *Amen*

Words of Assurance (all together):

Remember not our former ways, that God's new way may find a place within us and among us all. God forgives and makes anew. God sends water to refresh us and food for our spirits. Let us come home to God with shouts of joy, for the harvest of salvation. Amen.

Song of Assurance:

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

Scripture Reading:

Luke 24: 1-8

Message: [God On The Move] God is on the Move....Out of the Tomb
Mrs. Brenda Schultz

Praising God in Music:

Take Thou My Hand and Lead Me

A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer: Why is it, Lord, that we rush headlong into holidays? The store shelves have been filled with bunnies, eggs, candy, and all the trimmings of the secular Easter, and we are drawn to planning for that day. We feel a sense of

urgency, and yet you have called us to be on *this* journey, gradually coming with Christ to the Cross and beyond. Slow us down. Help us to look more closely at our own lives and at what drives us to do the things we do. We have offered prayers for family and friends, for situations near and far. We have asked for your help, healing and blessing. Make us ready to receive these precious gifts in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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,
for ever. 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).

Offertory Music:

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

May nothing be worth more to us, O God, than the opportunity to know Jesus Christ, to share in Christ's suffering, and to know the transforming power of the resurrection. Bless these offerings, that our church programs may bear fruit and your mission may be accomplished, here and everywhere in the world. *Amen.*

A Sending Forth Song

Dwell In Me, O Blessed Spirit

Benediction

In Christ you are a new creation; the old has passed away, the new has come. In newness of life, we re-enter our everyday world, seeing it through new eyes. Go forth and declare the praise of God before all people; press on toward perfection in Christ and rejoice – always rejoice in the glory of God. *Amen.*

Postlude

Luke 24: 1-8 NRSV

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words,

