



**WEDNESDAY. March 3, 2021**  
**St. James United Church of Christ**  
**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz  
Pastor

Randy Sohn  
Organist

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude for Gathering for Worship

*Dedication*

**Call to Worship (responsively):**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**P: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.**

L: As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love to all who fear God.

**P: God satisfies us with good as long as we live, so our youth is renewed like the eagle's**

L: Turn aside and see a great sight; attune your ears to the voice of God.

**P: The place where we are standing is holy ground. In awe, we seek the One who heals the penitent.**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Place your hands on us, gracious Redeemer, for we need your healing touch. Loose us from our bondage to fear and temptation. Silence our grumbling and complaining. Turn us away from criticism of others whose good works do not conform to our design. Free us all to worship in God's holy name. Amen.**

**Apostles 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.

**Song of Prayer:**

*My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

**Prayer of Confession:**

Faithful and loving God, we have tried to live without you amid the idols we have created. We have closed our minds and hearts to your presence and your invitation. The advantages we take for granted have oppressed many of our sisters and brothers who only receive token leftovers from our hands. Our immortality is

killing us, and them. O God, is there any way out of the prisons we have built around us?

**Words of Assurance (together):**

**God does not always chide, nor remain angry forever. God does not deal with us according to our sins or repay us according to our iniquities. Bless the Lord, who forgives all our iniquity, heals all our diseases, and redeems our lives from the pit. God is merciful and gracious, removing our transgressions from us and pitying all who fear God. The God of steadfast love leads us from our bondage into freedom from our sin. *Praise God!***

**Song of Assurance:** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 13:1-8  
**Message:** [God On The Move] God Moves Over the Fence  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Praising God in Music:** *Lead on, O King Eternal!*

**A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:**

O God, it occurs to us, that our prayers are sometimes one-sided. So today our prayer is not only for the usual things we pray for, but also for the opposite things.

We pray not only for the sick but for the well, lest pride rule happy hearts. We pray not only for the poor but for the rich who find it so hard to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. We pray for the troubled and also for the favored ones, lest peace with the world be confused with the peace of God. We pray not only for the dying but also for the living, since they face eternity as well.

We pray for the burdened and the casual, lest indolence rot the soul. We pray for country's leadership but also the people because it is they who pay for misrule when it comes.

We pray for ministers of the Gospel, and also for people of the gospel, since all who believe are called to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray not only for fair weather, but also for bad weather, since nature is impartial and often prodigal, and human estimates of good and bad do not count. We pray not only sinners to turn and be saved, but also for the rest of us who think we have no sin and are in greater need of penitence and healing. And finally, Lord, we pray not

only for others, but also ourselves, because salvation and righteousness begins at the household of God. *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:** *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)**

Faithful God, share food and drink to all your children as we share from your bounty. Nourish the spirits of all who give and all who receive and extend to us the healing we most need. In your name we dare to face oppressors with your truth, on behalf of your afflicted people. Accept and sustain these offerings, we pray. *Amen.*

**A Sending Forth Song** *Who is on the Lord's Side?*

**Benediction**

May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace as you go to love and serve the Lord, with the power of the Holy Spirit and for the Kingdom of God. *Amen.*

**Postlude**

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**Luke 13:1-8 NRSV**

*At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."*

*Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it."*