



2nd Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 5, 2023

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist

Reader: Sandy Perronne

Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *The Light of the World is Jesus*

St. James: *We Are Called*

Call To Worship:

L: Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved!

P: May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today and renew our sense of calling.

L: So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;

P: come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

L: Come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world,

P: to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers and to renew our calling.

L: Friends of God,

P: let us worship!

Hymn of Praise:

St Mark's (#728)

St. James: (#384)

*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand
The Morning Light is Breaking*

Prayer:

Let the whole earth praise the Lord! Let the mountains and hills proclaim God's handiwork! Let the seas roar and the waves crash in symphonies of praise! Let all creation sing God's new song of love! Praise be to God who has created and is creating anew! Praise be to God who re-creates God's love in us each day! *Amen.*

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Have mercy, God of every generation. Pour out the rich blessing of forgiveness on our parched souls. Feed us with Heaven's Bread, so we might be nourished by your gentleness. Shape us as your people and restore us to faithful living, as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in service to everyone we meet.

Brief period of silence

Words of Assurance:

The wideness of God's mercy, the range of God's forgiveness, the infinite love of God, the heart of hope which is never empty: all these gifts are ours, as God restores us to the fullness of life meant for us.

Grounded in love, rooted in discipleship, we offer ourselves in service to others, recognizing the limitless grace which is ours to share in Christ. Thanks be to God. *Amen.*

St. Mark's: (#109)
St. James Choral Anthem:

O How I Love Jesus
People Need the Lord

Scripture Reading:

John3:16-21

Message:

Love – Being Loved by God

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

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: *The King of Love is My Shepherd*

St. James: *Father, We Praise Thee*

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (Based on Matthew 4:1-11)

Mighty and all-knowing God who sees us as we are and as we might be: What offering can we give that will bring you joy? We have brought gifts this morning that you might dedicate them to the work of caring and compassion in our neighborhoods, in our nations and throughout the world. Yet all the money we have can't accomplish what you can make happen if we simply let Christ dwell in our hearts – not for an hour on Sundays but every hour of every day. This is the offering we dedicate this day. In Christ, our redeemer, we pray. *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 and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending:

St. Mark's: (#710)

The Trees of the Field

St. James: (#472)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Benediction:

Just as God's Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope. Go now to be light for the world! And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Mark's: *Forward in Faith*

St. James: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

John3:16-21

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.



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