

March 7, 2021  
Our Church's Wider Mission Sunday  
St. Mark's United Church of Christ  
St. James United Church of Christ

Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org) email: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com) phone:  
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Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz  
Pastor

Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn  
Organist

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship

St. Mark's - *Ivory Palaces*  
St. James - *Praise and Worship*

**Call to Worship:**

L: Bless God at all times; may our praise of you be on our lips.

**P: Our souls make their boast in God; the afflicted hear and are glad.**

L: O magnify our God with me and let us exalt God's name together.

**P: We sought our God, who answered us and delivered us from all our fears.**

L: Look to God and be radiant, so our faces shall never be shamed.

**P: O taste and see that God is good! Happy is the one who takes refuge in God.**

**Opening Prayer:**

In poverty and in plenty we look to you, O God, the source of all good things. You have accepted us even when we cannot accept ourselves and have loved us when we are most unlovable. Help us in this hour to let go of all that separates us from you. *Amen.*

**Young at Heart**



**Song of Prayer:**

*Dear Shepherd of Thy People*

**Prayer of Confession:**

O God, we have journeyed to places far away and lived as if you were not there with us. We have wasted the inheritance you have given to us; even as we neglected the care of love of others. While we try to lay the blame at your feet, the truth is

we are not worthy of your grace or mercy. Forgive us and grant us just a small place in your love. In Christ, through Christ, for Christ ~ we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance:**

**In Christ we are a new creation, and God does not count our trespasses against us. God gives us the very best and celebrates our return. The new life God grants us enables us to reach out to those we have wronged and those who have wronged us. We are reconciled to God and one another. Let us live as ambassadors for Christ. Amen.**

**Song of Assurance:**

*Almighty Father, Who Dost Give*

**Scripture Reading:**

Luke 15:11-24

**Message:** **[Beginnings]** *If I Don't Feel Lost, Why Do I Need to Be Found?*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Praising God in Music:**

*Glory, Glory Hallelujah*  
*(African American Spiritual)*

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

Pastoral Prayer ...

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](http://stmstjucc.org)).

**Offertory Music:**

St. Mark's - *Jesus. Keep Me Near the Cross*  
St. James - *Ever Faithful, Ever Near*

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

How grateful we are, O God, that you have claimed us and provided for us, even when we have been unfaithful. In thanksgiving in for your compassion, and in recognition of needs among your children that you call us to take up, we bring our best offerings. Make us useful in your service. *Amen.*

### A Sending Forth Song

*O God of Love, O King of Peace*

### Benediction

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### Postlude

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**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP DRIVE-THRU CHILI DINNER  
TODAY at St. James, 11-3**

**LENTEN WORSHIP- Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at St. Mark's UCC**

### This Week's Celebrations:

**Birthdays:** March 7<sup>th</sup> - Dale Krause

8<sup>th</sup> - Jameson Binversie

10<sup>th</sup> - Larry Perronne, Jack Schnelle, Lindsay Wippermann,  
Milton Wippermann

11<sup>th</sup> - David Grunwald

13<sup>th</sup> - Louise Jetzer, Hannah Schmitz

### Anniversary:

March 12<sup>th</sup> - Lloyd & Maureen Athorp

12<sup>th</sup> - Tim & Brenda Miota



### Luke 15: 11 -24

*Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.*