

Sunday, August 14, 2022 St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Ann Rodewald, Organist Scott Siekman, Reader at St. Mark's

Meditative Music Bells Ring Prelude Gathering for Worship:

lust As I Am

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: God calls us here today.

P: We bring our full selves to God: our strengths and our weaknesses.

L: God calls YOU here today.

P: We offer all we are to God: our talents and our inadequacies.

L: God calls every part of us to bring divine love and light into the world!

P: We respond to that call, trusting that God is at work within us.

Opening Prayer:

God of the Past, Present, and Future,

Seldom do we know what you'll ask of us each day. Many times, we are in the moment when we feel the nudging of your spirit to act. As we spend time in your house today, may our souls be aligned with you, so that we may readily respond when you call! *Amen*.

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance:

God of Redemption,

You call us to wash ourselves clean, so that our transgressions fall away.

May we cease doing evil, learn to do good, and seek justice.

You call us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.

May we not forget these responsibilities you've set before us.

We are grateful for the reminder from the prophet Isaiah that,

though our sins are like scarlet, you'll make us like snow!

Even though they are red like crimson, you make them like wool!

May we be obedient and willing followers, pleasing unto you.

We are not always the ones you would have us be. And yet, you do not abandon us. Praise and glory be to you all-powerful God. May your kingdom be here on earth as it is in heaven, even and especially in small ways, through each of us. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Hymn of Response: (#402 Hymnal) Let There Be Light, Lord God of Hosts

Message: All In On Worship 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 online offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

Offertory Music:

The Gentle Savior

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

God of love and grace, we bring our offerings this day and ask that they might be dedicated to strengthening your church for the making of disciples for Jesus Christ. Your prophet Isaiah reminds us that offering money or possessions is not enough. He proclaims to the Israelites that unless their offerings are accompanied by a willingness to "learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow," the offerings are futile. Open our ears to hear what pleases you and open our eyes to see the opportunities all around us. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and 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. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: (#368 Worship & Rejoice)

O Happy Day

Benediction:

As we close our time of worship, we understand worshipping you never really ends. We carry it through our daily chores, in our place of work and place of rest. In our conversations, our decisions, and our actions - big or small. Bless us to your will and guidance Lord, now and always. *Amen.*

Postlude:

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 ESV

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

"What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

"When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts?

Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,

learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Oh Happy Day

