



Sunday, September 4, 2022
St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist Deb LaDuke, Reader at St. James

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Jesus Is My Hope*

St. James: *O Worship the King*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Arise, take heart, Jesus is calling you; respond to Christ's call with joy.

P: We hear God calling us by name, to lead us by the Spirit in new paths.

L: God gathers us from all the earth and from every human need.

P: We come for healing and consolation and to offer our joyous thanksgiving.

L: God leads us by refreshing waters and keeps our feet from stumbling.

P: We who have sown in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

Opening Prayer:

God of all peoples, may we be your people in all our thoughts and actions. We are your wayward children, returning to find rest and renewal – rebuilding our faith and our lives. We are disciples of Christ, eager for new insights and firm direction. Fill us now with the warmth of your presence that we may find new joy in your service. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: (#12 Binder)

Have Thine Own Way

Young at Heart:



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.*

Scripture Reading:

Nehemiah 1:1-4

Message: *New Beginnings: [Re]Building*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response: (#221 Hymnal)

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

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: *We Live By Faith*

St. James: *I Shall Not Want*

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Thank you, God, for the joy of giving and receiving. Thank you for saving and healing us. For relieving our pain and strengthening us in times off loss. Accept these gifts of gratitude, we invest them in the lives of people. May others know the joy we find in serving you. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer: [God of Pity, God of Grace]

God of pity, God of grace, when we humbly seek thy face,
Bend from heav'n, thy dwelling-place; hear, forgive, and save.

When thy love our hearts shall fill, and we long to do thy will,
Turning to thy holy hill, Lord, accept and save.

And, whate'er our cry may be, when we lift our hearts to thee,
From our burden set us free; heal, forgive, and save.

Hymn of Sending: (#27-28 Binder)

Renew Your Church

Benediction:

Lord, thank you that we are a family in Christ. Help us to share his love and his message with everyone we encounter this week. May we lavish Christ's abounding love upon our families, friends, co-workers, classmates and neighbors. Holy Spirit come, equip us to meet the challenges that lie ahead and bless us that we may be the hands and feet of Christ, the arms of compassion to those in need. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Mark's: *O Worship The King*

St. James: *Our Refuge and Strength*

Nehemiah 1:1-4 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.