

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
“Palm Sunday”
Sunday, April 2, 2023
St. Mark’s/St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Kim Henning, Guest Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist
Sandy Perronne, Reader

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
Humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Zechariah 9:9

PRELUDE:

St. Mark’s: *The King of Glory*
St. James: *Ride on in Triumph, O King*

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who years ago on this day entered Jerusalem. Amen.

As we enter worship,

it is sobering to remember that when God appeared in the person of Jesus, most did not recognize him, and therefore did not worship him.

Today we pray for faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is, that we might worship him in truth.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Open our eyes to see the glory of Christ.

Open our ears to hear his wisdom.

Open our hands to offer him gifts.

Open our mouths to sing his praise.

Open our hearts that we might offer him our love.

He is Lord.

INVOCATION:

HYMN:

#267 (Worship and Rejoice); #136 (The Hymnal)

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

As we come to this time of prayer, let us remember these two truths: 'everyone who lives has been deeply hurt by others,' and 'everyone who lives has deeply hurt others.' There is yet a third reality to grapple with, "each of us has offended God, the one in whose image we have been created.' Trusting God's mercy, I invite you to pray with me.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Search us, O God, and know even those things we have tried to keep secret. We bring before you, our failures--those times we have let others down. We bring to you our broken relationships--people we can scarcely look at. We bring before you our character flaws--our arrogance and pride. And now, O God, we publicly repent and plead for mercy. You are God, and it is your very nature to offer us your steadfast love and forgiveness. Heal us, we pray, and grant us your peace. We pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

O God, only you can cleanse our hearts.

Grant us your peace.

O God, only you can lift us above our mortality.

Raise us up, O God.

O God, only through your Holy Spirit are we made fully alive.

Praise be to you, forever. Amen.

RESPONSE:

All Glory, Laud and Honor

#265 (Worship and Rejoice); #135 (The Hymnal)

Psalms 118:1-4; 19:29:

(The psalm we are about to read gives the impression that it was recited in a ceremony upon entering the Temple in Jerusalem. It is a moment of great awe to come into God's presence. Come, join me as we offer our praise to God.)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

THE NEW TESTAMENT:

Philippians 2:5-11

(It is highly probable that the text you are about to hear was an early confession of faith in the early church. A text like this never loses its validity. I invite you to read this publicly with me.)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

ST MARK'S HYMN:
#358 (Worship and Rejoice)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ST JAMES CHOIR ANTHEM:

Celebrate and Sing
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

SERMON ON THE STEPS:

A Parade With Jesus

THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 21:1-11NRVS

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

*"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

SERMON:

Humility Within and Throughout

PASTORAL PRAYER 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. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

It is a beautiful thing to observe the generosity of those who love the Lord. Without judgement or coercion, people of faith give because they love, because they care, and because they recognize that the entirety of this life is a gift from God. It is our trust that these gifts will bless the lives of others with hope and joy.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: St. Mark's: *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*
St. James: *The Palms*

~The offering is brought to the altar~

DOXOLOGY:

#34 (Worship and Rejoice), #551 (The Hymnal)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Please pray with me,

We love you, O God. We love you enough to show up at a place like this as we offer you our praise. We love you enough to listen to your Word and to pay attention to the needs of others. And we love you enough to bring to you in prayer our needs. God, we offer now our offering in hope that your kingdom be present in our midst through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN:

#390 (Worship and Rejoice) and printed on next page

We're Marching to Zion


COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE:

St. Mark's: *Hosanna! Christ Is King!*
St. James: *Fanfare for the King*



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

COME & JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP!

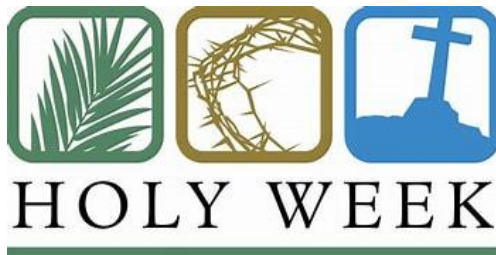
St. James UCC

*1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.*

*****Sunday School 9-10am at both churches*****

St. Mark's UCC

*1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.*



Join Us:

Thursday, April 6th, 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion at St. James

Friday, April 7th, Good Friday Worship with Communion, 7pm, at St. Mark's

Sunday, April 9th, Easter Sunday Worship with Communion

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care,
please contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858 or leave a message on the church's
answering machine at: 920-693-8361



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

April 2nd - Glenn Grunwald

3rd - Dale Dirks, Chris Schnelle

5th - Karen Binversie

7th - Karen Becker, Dale Sprenger

ANNIVERSARIES:

April 2nd - Pastor Patrick & Brenda Schultz

6th - Jason & Jenny Riesterer

TONIGHT...HS YOUTH MEETING, 5:30 pm at St. Mark's. Check the email from Mrs. Schultz—you're asked to bring something 😊

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE... Wednesday, April 5th, 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS... Arrive by 6:30pm at St. James on Maundy Thursday (April 6th) and by 6:30pm at St. Mark's on Good Friday (April 7th)

ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE... Wednesday, April 5th, 7pm

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion, 7pm, April 6th, St. James

Good Friday Worship with Communion, 7pm, April 7th, St. Mark's

Easter Worship next week Sunday with Communion,

9:00 St. James, 10:30 St. Mark's, Sunday School at both churches 9-10
(St. Mark's Sunday School will sing during the Worship service)

Mission Trip Fundraising Events

Easter Sunday, April 9th - Bake sale/Coin Drive (Clean out loose coins)

June 3rd Brat Fry at Howards Grove Piggly Wiggly, from 10am-2pm

Also watch for our sales in Kwik Trip Car Wash Cards and Seroogy Candy Bars.

Thank you so much for your support!





Our parsonage loan has been declining quickly with a balance of \$10,883.91! It is great how our congregation has come together and made this possible. We are so fortunate to have such great response and positive contributors and would love to see this paid off so we can focus on upcoming projects.

Additional contributions would be appreciated to make this happen.

As always, we thank you for all your continued support.

St. Mark's Consistory

WELCOME!

To the parents of young children:

Relax! *God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.*

- ❖ *Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.*
- ❖ *Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.*
- ❖ *Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.*
- ❖ *If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."*