



Good Friday, April 7, 2023
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist
Kathy Jurk, Choir Director

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Gathering:

It's a dark day to be gathered here, Jesus.

it's a barren place this – filled with shadows and death.

**But we are here because we need to be here;
the shadows of this day are our shadows, the death is our death.**

Now, as we worship, your cross becomes for us a mirror,
reflecting back to us our own brokenness, sinfulness and darkness.

**And as we reflect on Your love-inspired sacrifice,
we discover an open doorway to life.**

**We gather at the foot of Your cross,
because we desperately need to be here.**

Amen.

Praise and Confession:

It seems impossible that anyone would give what you did
to save men and women like us.

But you gave yourself freely for our sakes.

It seems unimaginable that anyone could love the way you did,
including outcasts, rebels, and even your persecutors,
and refusing to strike back.

But, you loved so much that you laid down your life for our sakes.

It seems inconceivable that anyone would offer the forgiveness that you did
even as nails pierced your flesh, and the cross was stained
with your blood.

**But, you did not hold our sin against us,
and took on yourself the suffering that should have been ours.**

Forgive us that we have allowed greed and violence,
pride and deceit,
bitterness and coldness,
to have a place in our hearts.

**And fill us again with Your immeasurable grace,
Your inexhaustible love,
and Your unconquerable life,
That we may be changed,
and may express our love and devotion through lives of worship.
*Amen.***

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Transcribed:

Rev. C. G. Schmahl, '54

C. Harold Lowden.

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 dai-ly bread, and for-give us our debts as we for-

give one debt-ors. And lead us not into temp-ta-tion; But de-

liv-er us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the

Glor-y, Thy-er-er and av-er-er, A-men, A-men.

Prayers of the People:

If the cross tells us anything, O Lord,
it is that You know and share our suffering:
You are with us, and all those who are victims of disease,
of the violence or abuse of others,
of our own ignorance, foolishness or sin.

Help us and restore us, O Lord, we pray.

You are with us, and all those who inflict pain on others and on our world,
through our selfishness or greed,
through our brokenness or anger,
through our rigidity or need to be right.

Help us and restore us, O Lord, we pray.

You are with us, and all those who are fearful of threats
to this world we call home,
to our safety and survival,
to our sense of community and togetherness as people.

Help us and restore us, O Lord, we pray.

Observe a Moment of Silence

**Christ of the Cross,
See our need of Your grace,
Hear our prayer for Your mercy,
And come to us again, to help and restore,
because we cannot heal ourselves. Amen.**

St. Mark's Choral Anthem:

I Sing of My Lord

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23:27-33, 39-43

And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Message: *Of Divine Necessity*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Mark's Choral Anthem:

Precious Gifts

Sacrament of Communion:

Jesus came into the world, not to judge it, but to save it.

**We are so grateful for God's infinite love,
and we celebrate with all of creation the saving work
of our Suffering Savior.**

On the night before he was nailed to the merciless cross,
Jesus shared His last meal with His friends.

He took the bread, He broke it, and He gave thanks,
and then He passed it among them saying,

This is my body which is broken for you. Eat it and remember Me.

He took the wine, and He gave thanks,
and then He passed it among them saying,

This is my blood which is shed for you. Drink it and remember Me.

And so, we take, we eat and drink, and we remember:

There is no greater love,
than this sacrifice which You, Jesus, made for us;

**When we come to this meal, O Lord,
we are reminded that it is the death and darkness in us,
that drove You to the cross.**

**And so we come with no pride, no sense of entitlement;
we come humbly and with deep gratitude.**

**For it is You alone that has made a place for us
at Your table.**

As you awaken us to your presence by your Spirit,
may we know this bread and wine,
to be your body and blood;

As you embrace us now, by your Spirit,
may we be changed, so that together we become
the embodiment of your love, of your life
to the world. In Christ's precious name we pray. *Amen.*

Hymn of Response: #261

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Offering:

For the offerings, gifts, and tithes given both before and after the service; for the offerings made on-line and through Tithe.ly; for the gifts of your time, talents, prayers, support and encouragement in furtherment of this church's ministry and mission - we thank you.

Offertory Music:

Lamb of God

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

**In Your cross, O Christ, we see Your incredible love;
in Your death, O Lord, we discover Your irrepressible life;
in Your suffering, O Savior, we find that we are saved.**

**Thank You for leading us out of darkness and into Your marvelous Light;
Now, lead us into the world, as agents of Love, Light and Salvation. Amen.**

Hymn of Sending: #277

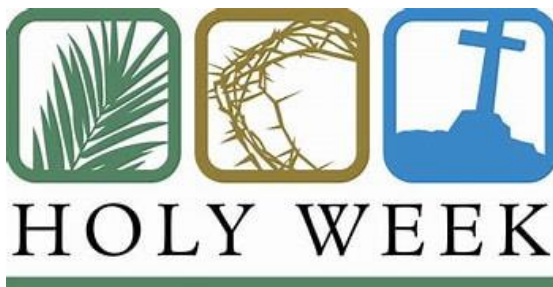
My Savior's Love

Benediction:

We go in Silence, seeking the Forgiveness of Christ our Lord. We Gather again on Easter morning with Shouts of Proclamation and Celebration of the Risen Lord.
Amen.

Postlude:

Tis midnight and on Olive's brow

***Join Us:***

Sunday, April 9th, Easter Sunday Worship with Communion

9:00am at St. James

10:30am at St. Mark's

Sunday School 9-10am at Both Churches

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

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.



Mission Trip Fundraising Events

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

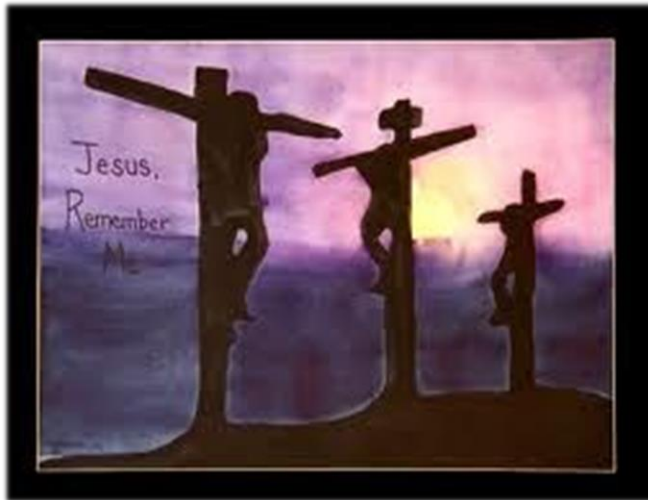
June 3rd Brat Fry at Howards Grove Piggly Wiggly, from 10am-2pm
Kwik Trip Car Wash Cards and Seroogy Candy Bars are also available.

Thank you so much for your support!

A poster for a "BRAT FRY" event. The text is in a mix of bold sans-serif and cursive fonts. The background features a black grill with a metal spatula and a brush, and a red and white checkered cloth. A red button at the bottom says "Take Outs Only".

BRAT FRY
St James UCC
13312 Pioneer Road, Newton
(Spring Valley)
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
4 - 7 pm
Brats
Hamburgers
Chicken
Tortes

Take Outs Only



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

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