



Sunday, November 22, 2023, Thanksgiving Eve

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist

Raymond Henschel, Reader

Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

Call to Worship:

L: Come, let us celebrate the wondrous gifts that God has given us.

P: Throughout all our lives, God has blessed us with love and hope.

L: Praise be to God who provides for us.

P: May our hearts be truly grateful, and may we show our gratitude by the ways in which we live and care for others. Hallelujah!

Prayer: *[Based on Psalm 100]*

We are called to make a joyful noise to the Lord; we and all the earth. We are filled with gladness, and we worship the Lord! Let us break forth in song and know this: The Lord is God. We belong to the Lord who made us. We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture. We enter God's gates with thanksgiving, we come into the holy courts with praise. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good! His steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

Hymn: (#19)

We Praise Thee, O God

[Please Be Seated]

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *[Edited from Jane Crewdson, 1860]*

O you whose bounty fills our cups,
With every blessing we meet!
We give you thanks for every drop—
The bitter and the sweet.

We praise you for the desert road,
And for the riverside;
For all your goodness has bestowed,
And all your grace denied.

We thank you for both smile and frown,
And for the gain and loss;
We praise you for the future crown
And for the present cross.

We thank you for both wings of love
Which stirred our worldly nest;
And for the stormy clouds which drove
Us, trembling, to your breast.

We bless you for the glad increase,
Alas, and for the waning joy;
And for this strange, this settled peace
Which nothing can destroy.

Choral Anthem:

Grateful Praise

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD!

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!*

*Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!*

*Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!*

*Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!*

Message:

Thankful for the Good News

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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.*

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good.

In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power forever.

You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

On the night before meeting with death Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts,
that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine
we may know the presence of the living Christ

and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world,
redeemed by Christ's blood,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at your table for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **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).

Offertory Music: Piano & Organ Duet:
~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

For the Beauty of the Earth

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of all creation: things both big and small, seen and unseen, universe and all that is in it, maker of generations past and generations to be, thank you for your grace and mercy in our lives. Thank you for making each one of us in your image, and loving us unconditionally. Take these gifts we offer and make them be a gift for the many in need. In the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn: (#72 Hymnal)

Now Thank We All Our God

Benediction:

Gracious God, in your presence alone we find our acceptance, reconciliation, and our Filled to the brim with the goodness of God; the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, and the power of the Holy Spirit, go now in peace to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, and all that you are, and all that you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Thankful Heart Rejoices

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 meets 9-10am at both churches~

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

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

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

Memorial Sunday, a time of remembrance of our church members who have entered Eternal Life during the past church year, will be held this week Sunday, November 26th.

Poinsettia Orders –Due this Sunday, Nov. 26th at St. Mark's
Due the following Sunday, Dec. 3rd at St. James

ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE- meets Monday, November 27th, at 6:30pm

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH. Email them the Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com

CHOIR REHEARSALS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH –
St. James, 6:30pm
St. Mark's, 7:00pm

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER KWIK TRIP CAR WASH GIFT CARDS –
\$36 for 5 Ultimate Car Washes (Value \$50). To purchase yours (they make great gifts!) contact Anna Marie Bramstedt at 920.698.7656 or any other of the Mission Trip members.

ST. MARK'S REMINDERS:

ST. MARK'S COOKIE EXCHANGE – Sign up in the church entryway by Saturday, December 9th.

ST. MARK'S ADOPTED GIVING TREE FAMILY – Either sign up on line with sign up genius: <http://bit.ly/sharegifts2023> or take an ornament off the tree in St. Mark's church entryway. Wrapped, labeled (with recipient & contents) gifts due at church Dec. 17th.

SIGN UP FOR USHERING AT ST. MARK'S – either in the church entryway or online at: <https://bit.ly/usher2024>

GPS

Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.

Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.

Often times at Thanksgiving, and especially at mealtime, we are asked to go around the table answering the question, “What are you thankful for this year?” Sometimes a very thoughtful answer is given and sometimes a funny response is attempted 😊. And occasionally, especially if you have teenagers at the table, the answer is a shrug or eye roll and a mumbled something or other.

I’ll be the first to admit that it can be hard to answer that question sometimes. The common answer might be my wife, my husband, my kids, my grandkids, my mom and dad... Or I’m thankful I got my first buck this year! I’m thankful I have the week off from work! Time off from school! It’s hard to be deep and thoughtful in the moment. Yet, Thanksgiving is a moment in our year where we are called to be just that. Deep, thoughtful, appreciative, and demonstrative (in our own unique ways) of that gratefulness... Here is a thankful prayer I wrote and delivered some years ago:

Heavenly Father, Son and Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with gratitude in all that we receive from you: For eyes that see. For ears that hear. For fingers that grasp. For knees that bend. For lungs that breathe. Let us be thankful for our families, our homes and our Savior Jesus Christ. Today we ask for nothing, and we thank you for all things. In Jesus’ name, *Amen*.

We have much to be thankful for – the food we eat, the roof over our heads, the job at which we work, the family of which we are a part, the church family to which we belong, the freedom we have to experience all of these things. And so much more.

Me? I am thankful for my church (both!), my church family (all), my personal family (extended), my home, the gifts God has given me and most of all, I am thankful for God being in my life.

Peace to you and happy Thanksgiving everyone!

NOTES:

