



TRUST like Ruth
PROTECT like Rahab
LEAD like Deborah
FIGHT like Esther
PRAY like Hannah
REJOICE like Mary

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Sandy Perronne, Worship Leader

Readers: Sierra Bramstedt, Colten Sommer, Reid Vandoske

Ann Rodewald, Organist Kathy Jurk, Choir Director

From Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz: Let me first give thanks to God for the ministry opportunities we experience in our lives. And especially, I want to thank Sandy for leading worship tonight. Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ is a blessing without doubt, but it can be burdensome as well. It's not to be taken lightly. Through God's grace and spirit Sandy has been called tonight to share this message. May God bless her and fill her with the Holy Spirit. And may you be blessed by the words she shares with you.

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

Call To Worship:

Reid Vandoske

My strength is exalted in my God. Despite sadness, anxieties and frustrations, we praise your name, O Lord.

**For the power of the Lord gives me strength,
and the love of the Lord gives me hope.**

With Hannah, the mother of sorrows,
we bless the name of the Lord, today and forever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting, God is with us.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

We praise your holy name, O God.

From Hannah, the mother of joy,
we learn the bounty of unwavering hope.

Let your servant find favor in your sight, O Lord.

Prayer:

Reid Vandoske

Holy One, there is no God like you. In praise and thanksgiving, we come before you ready to learn of your power, ready to follow your path for our lives.

Through days of celebration as well as dejection, help us realize your influence in the world. We ask simply for ears to hear, eyes to see, and minds to understand the blessings you bestow. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: #466

Take My Life and Let It Be

Prayers of the People:

Sierra Bramstedt

O Gracious God, we thank you for the beauty of this earth you made: the sapphire skies, the rolling hills, the racing brook, and the deep seas.

We thank you for the return of springtime, color and hope.

God of compassion and care, we thank you that for all the trials, challenges, hurt, pain and suffering we have both had and seen in life, none of it has been apart from you.

Your presence as we walked the deepest, darkest valleys are what saw us through.

God of Purpose and Direction, we need your guidance on our life journeys. Be with each of us when we wander away and bring us always back to you. Be with the suffering, the discouraged, the lonely, the depressed, and the grieving.

And help us to always see ourselves as your faithful followers, living in all ways in and through your Holy Name.

First Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:12-17 ESV Colten Sommer
As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him."

St. Mark's Choral Anthem:

At the Cross

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:21-28 ESV Colten Sommer
The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD."

Message:

Pray Like Hannah

Sandy Perronne

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

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Hymn of Offering: #688

We Give Thee But Thine Own

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Generous God, thank you that all things were created through you and for you, you are before all things, and in you, all things exist. The Bible says that we should bring our tithes and offerings into your storehouse and that you will respond by opening the windows of heaven and sending down blessing upon blessing. Accept the gifts we place before you now. May the peace of God reign in our lives, the love of God surround us, the Spirit of God empower us and the joy of God uphold us. *Amen.*

Prayer of the People 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 and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: #716

God Be With You

Benediction:

Go in peace, remembering a mother's faith in God — a faith that provided her with comfort and strength in her time of need. May you pray unfailingly, grow steadily, and love constantly. *Amen.*

Postlude

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