



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

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Confirmands: Sierra Bramstedt, Colten Sommer, Reid Vandoske

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

What Wondrous Love Is This

Call To Worship:

L: Thanks be to God for the good news of the gospel! Through this truth, we are being transformed into the image of God.

P: **We lay aside everything that weighs us down and turn our attention toward the God who has redeemed us.**

L: Put away old ways to be clothed with the new self, created in the image of our Creator.

P: **We put away old destructive ways to be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**

L: We refuse to live like the Pharisees who did not practice what they taught.

P: **We give thanks for God's transforming grace at work among us. Thanks be to God for the good news of the gospel!**

Prayer:

God of steadfast love, we praise you, for you abundantly provide for every living thing! Thank you for listening when we call to you in times of need. You guide us in your good path where we will find all you give us. You alone do wonders: you alone bring transformation, creating new life out of death. Enable us by your Spirit to live as people of gratitude who help others to experience your love and grace. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: #271

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Apostle's 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.*

For Renewal of the Church:

Renew your church, Lord, and your people in this land.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be emboldened and empowered, to be your faithful disciples. Encourage us to ask questions when we don't know how. Let us not be afraid in our own ignorance but seek ways to become wiser. And help us to forgive ourselves, even as you have forgiven us, when we fail.

Amen.

Hymn: (#272)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 2:1-7

Message:

Protect Like Rahab

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

St. James Choral Anthem:

God's Peace

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:

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

We give because we are grateful. We give to praise you, O God, and rejoice in blessings beyond our awareness or deserving. We share because we have in abundance and there are those in greater need. Increase our joy and our generosity for Jesus' sake. 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: (#462)

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Benediction:

You are sent with authority to proclaim the good news and reject all evil. God has blessed us in Christ for every spiritual blessing. Go with us O Lord, be present wherever we dwell, and strengthen us against adversity. Let us go now to love and serve our Lord in all that we do, in all that we are, in all that we will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Rathbun

Joshua 2:1-7 ESV

And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

****Extra Chili & Desserts from Sunday's Youth Fellowship Fundraiser are available for sale this evening following the Worship Service.****

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