

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn, Organist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

Were You There?

Call to Worship:

L: It is time to remember Christ who was sent. It is time to say, "Thank you" for all he meant. Come to this sanctuary. Come to the altar. Come to the table without fear. God will forgive you and welcome you here.

P: We come, hearts ready to receive the gift of Christ.

L: Jesus Christ, you have walked with us on our Lenten journey. You have been with us as we encountered each barrier and obstacle. It is by your guidance and help that we have overcome so much. We have been strengthened by you. Now we give you thanks.

P: Nourish our souls and spirits by your love, that we may be in this world, serving, healing and welcoming all people in your name.

Opening Prayer (all together):

Ever-gracious God, we gather in this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an Upper Room long ago. We come bearing the marks and burdens of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us, in the breaking of the bread, of our need and of your great sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Affirmation of our Faith: The Apostle's Creed (all together):

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*

Song of Prayer:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Prayer of Confession:

O God, you who are always doing a new thing, we confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change.

God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns.

Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives and let your Spirit blow through. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance (All together):

**Like clay in the potter's hand, so we are to you, O Lord!
You take the ordinary and often imperfect,
and make something beautiful, molding us into the people
you envisioned us to be.
In your hands we are made new and perfected by you.
In your hands we are made useful in service Lord, for you.
In your Spirit we are made anew. *Amen.***

Song of Assurance:

What Wondrous Love Is This

Scripture Reading:

Luke 22:14-20

Message:

Stalks of Wheat and Vines of Grapes

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

A Time of Prayer and Holy Communion ~ All are invited to the table.

Pastoral Prayer

You call us to be your light in the darkness, your voice in the wilderness, your hope for the hopeless, your heart for the broken, your hands and feet in mission and ministry.

You give us strength in our weakness, peace and gentleness, words and boldness, to proclaim more of you and less of us.

You give us guidance spoken through the Written Word of God, through the voices of wise elders surrounding us, through the prayers we submit and those submitted on our behalf.

You give us perseverance and patience, strength and courage, purpose and intent even as you have given the same to the Saints throughout the ages. Hear us today O Lord, on this Maundy Thursday we give ourselves to you, wholly, completely, heart and soul. Use us as you see fit. Make us into the one you would have us be. Bless us to be a blessing to the people around us, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. *Amen.*

Into Holy Communion:

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Through your living Word you created all things and pronounced them good. You made us in your own image, to share life and reflect your glory.

When the time had fully come, you gave Christ to us as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He accepted baptism and consecration as your Servant to tell the Good News to the poor.

At the last supper Christ bequeathed to us the eucharist – the sacrament of Holy Communion, that we should celebrate the memorial of the cross and resurrection and receive his presence as food. To all the redeemed Christ gave the royal priesthood and, in loving his sisters and brothers, chooses those who share in the ministry, that they may feed the Church with your Word and enable it to live by your Sacraments.

With the angels and all the saints we proclaim and sing your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

May the outpouring of this Holy Spirit transfigure this thanksgiving meal that this bread and wine may become for us the body and blood of Christ.

On the night in which he was betrayed, He took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

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

After the supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks,
He gave it to them and said: Take, eat, this is my blood of the new covenant,
Which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Behold Lord, this eucharist which you yourself gave to the Church and graciously receive it, as you accept the offering of your Son whereby, we are reinstated in your Covenant.

As we partake of Christ's body and blood, fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may be one single body and one single spirit in Christ, a living sacrifice to the praise of your glory.

United by one baptism in the same Holy Spirit and the same Body of Christ, we pray as God's sons and daughters:

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.*

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:

Near the Cross?

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (All together)

God of all good gifts, who gives freely to us, have mercy on us and grant us the peace that only the Prince of Peace can provide.

Grant that our lives would be an offering, and that our work would be a good gift, pleasing to you and fit for the king of all creation. We look to you, our Prophet, Priest and King, to rule the world with justice, and to give salvation to all who call upon you. *Amen.*

A Sending Forth Song:

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

Benediction:

The story has been told and now we return to the world where we live and wait.
Is the worship is over?

No, the worship continues while we wait and watch. Our worship will close after the stone has been removed and the flame of hope has been re-lit.

So we go out to wait, we watch for the hope that defies despair,
the life that defies death, the beginning that defies the end.

While we wait, while darkness covers the land of faith, remember that no matter how abandoned we may feel we are not alone. God has not and will not abandon us.
Sunday is coming. *Amen.*

Postlude*Sarabande*

Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."