



January 5, 2025
St. Mark's and St. James UCC
Sunday Worship Service
Rev. Dan Borchers, Guest Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:
St. Mark's:
St. James:

Songs of Christmas
O Come, All Ye Faithful

Call to Worship:

The cold outside is a sign of the world at rest, waiting for the next growing season.

Here inside, we are warmed by this moment of fellowship and praise.

Nothing stops our will to be together in Christ's name.

Nothing stops our joy in gathering together to become the Body of Christ.

This is a holy moment, a holy event.

We are one people, with one faith, one Lord, one baptism, and one holy purpose, to celebrate and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious and loving God, your people have answered the call to gather together, to receive all that you have to give us. Bless us with your presence now, come into this place, come into this time. Inspire us to raise our eyes to see your goodness, and the world you invite us to create – a world built on compassion, hope and love. Give us this vision. Amen.

Hymn:

St. Mark's (#189), St. James (#104)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Apostles' 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.*



Young At Heart:

Hymn:

St. Mark's (#358), St. James (#272)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, you call us to lives of faithfulness, and even when we do our best, we fail ourselves, one another, and you. There are things we have done, and things we have failed to do, which require your forgiveness. Come to us again in love, and forgive our wrongdoing. Restore us, heal us, give us peace.

A Moment of Silence

Words of Assurance:

The God we worship never fails to approach us, and always approaches us in love. Because God approaches us in Jesus Christ, we are confident that our sins, our failings, our shortcomings, and our confusion is known, understood, viewed with compassion, and forgiven. Be at peace and be confident that you are forgiven, cherished, and embraced. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14, 10-18 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:1 ESV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:10-18 ESV

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Message:

The Message, the Messenger, and the Sender

Pastoral Prayer and 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. *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:

St. Mark's:

What Star Is This?

St. James:

A Joyous Noel

Doxology: (Everyone stand as you are able)

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Hymn:

Good Christians Rejoice!

St. Mark's (#198), St. James (#116)

Benediction

Postlude:

St. Mark's:

O Thou Joyful

St. James:

Good Christians Friends!

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 at St. James 9-10am ~

St. Mark's UCC

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

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