



**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**  
**St. James United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Randy Sohn, Organist      Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

*Our Mission is to help others deepen their relationship with God, become faithful followers of Christ, and to share the message of Christ's love with others.*

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*

### **Call to Worship:**

We come to worship, remembering God's goodness that has carried us and sustained us to this present moment.

**We remember the days when God covered us in love and filled us with joy.**

We come to worship, weary from stress, heavy with grief, and wondering when relief will come.

**We long for the days God covered us in love and filled us with joy.**

We come to worship to remember and remind one another that God's love has never left us, and God's joy cannot be extinguished.

**God, restore us that we know your love and your joy once again.**

We come to worship to remember and become the Body of Christ, a community called to restore the world around us.

**God, empower us to be your restoration people who fill the world with love, laughter, and abundant life.**

**Come to this sanctuary, O Holy Christ, and let us receive you with lavish welcome. You are the Restorer of our fortunes; The Promise of new life and we pour out our praise to you. Fill this room with your Spirit: The sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume and fill our hearts with your compassion. Amen.**

**Hymn: (#43)**

*When Morning Guilds the Sky*

### **Affirming Our Faith Together: 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.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we focus on a perceived golden past, and so we ignore the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our own achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus. Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst.

**A Moment of Silence:****Words of Assurance:**

**Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace. Amen.**

**Choral Anthem:**

*I Can Hear the Savior Calling*

**Scripture Reading:**

Philippians 4:22 ESV

*All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.*

**Message:**

*Christians In spite of Everything*

Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Peoples' Prayer:**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the abundance of your steadfast love. As we are filled with your grace and mercy, so we are renewed in spirit. May you guide us and use us to bring about your reign of peace on earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, the holy one, we now pray:

**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](http://stmstjucc.org)).

**Offertory Music:**

*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

**Doxology:**

**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:**

**Loving God, source of all joy, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude.  
We pour out our gifts before you, seeking to honor you with all that we have.  
May our offerings remind us of the abundance you've poured into our lives.  
Bless these gifts and use them to bring your hope to the world. Amen.**

**Hymn: (#476)**

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Benediction:**

**May you go out from this place in the blessing of God, who turns your weeping into laughter and your laughter into joy that plants seeds of restoration, justice, and abundance for all of God's creation.**

**Postlude:**

*Gentle Spirit*

**Lenten Wednesdays**

*Unbroken: A Living Faith is a deep dive into the God of faith. It is a time to recall, re-establish, and renew our own faith in God even when we are (or feel) broken.*

*Join us on Wednesday nights for this series as we explore a faith, passed down from generation to generation - in an unbroken line of ancestry that connects us all the way back to Jesus.*

**April 9<sup>th</sup> – 7pm at St. Mark's**

**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.**

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.stmarksstjamesucc.org](http://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)