



Good Friday, April 18, 2025
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist

Kathy Jurk, 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:

Jesu, Priceless Treasure

Call to Worship:

It's a dark day to be gathered here, Jesus;
it's a barren place here – filled with shadows and death.

**But we are here because we need to be here;
the shadows of this day are our shadows, the death is our death;**

Now, as we worship, your cross becomes for us a mirror,
reflecting back to us our own brokenness, sinfulness and darkness.

**And as we reflect on Your love-inspired sacrifice,
we discover an open doorway to life.**

**We gather at the foot of Your cross,
because we desperately need to be here.**

Almighty God,
as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son,
may we know your love for us,
that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Hymn: (#284)

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

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.*

First Reading:

Hebrews 10:12-22 ESV

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

*"This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,"*

then he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hymn: (#261)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Scripture Reading:

Mark 14:32-42 ESV

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

St. Mark's Choral Anthem

Were You There?

Message:

God Was Oddly Silent

Dr. Patrick Schultz

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Let us confess our sins:

O Christ, we are stripped bare by your suffering.

You see our dreams, our demons,

and the secrets we keep even from ourselves.

Forgive all that needs to be forgiven,

heal all that needs to be healed,

awaken all the good that sleeps in us,

banish all the fears that paralyze us.

Put the power of your cross into our lives forever,

and clothe us with hope and love.

Moment of Silence:

God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world,
but so that the world might be saved through him.
So let us bring the needs of the whole world
to the foot of the cross of Christ.

The Sacrament of Communion **Good Friday**

Jesus came into the world, not to judge it, but to save it.

**We are so grateful for God's infinite love,
and we celebrate with all of creation, the saving work,
of our Suffering Savior.**

On the night before he was nailed to the merciless cross,
Jesus shared His last meal with His friends.

He took the bread, He broke it, and He gave thanks,
and then He passed it among them saying,

This is my body which is broken for you. Eat it and remember Me.

He took the wine, and He gave thanks,
and then He passed it among them saying,

This is my blood which is shed for you. Drink it and remember Me.

And so, we take, we eat and drink, and we remember:

There is no greater love,
than this sacrifice which You, Jesus, made for us;

**When we come to this meal, O Lord,
we are reminded that it is the death and darkness in us,
that drove You to the cross;**

**And so we come with no pride, no sense of entitlement;
we come humbly and with deep gratitude;**

**For it is You alone that has made a place for us
at Your table.**

As you awaken us to your presence by your Spirit,
may we know this bread and wine,
to be your body and blood;

As you embrace us now, by your Spirit,
may we be changed, so that together we become
the embodiment of your love, of your life
to the world.

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:

Journey to Gethsemane

~ 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:

Crucified Christ, you will rise again. And when you do may these humble offerings be used to further your ministry and all ministry done in your name. Give us the courage to live as you have called us to; the strength to bear up under our burdens; and the foresight to keep you close by our side at all times. *Amen.*

Hymn: (#260)

The Old Rugged Cross

Benediction:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear the prayers we have lifted up to you by our presence, song, scripture, prayer and committal during Holy Communion. Bless us as we go forth, seekers and faithful alike. May we serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your Name: through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Postlude:

'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's brow

***Join us for Easter Worship with Communion: 9:00am at St. Mark's UCC
10:30am at St. James UCC (Sunday School 9-10am at St. James)***

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

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com