

A photograph of two hands clasped together, one hand holding the other, with water splashing around them. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a warm orange and yellow glow. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

God is our Refuge

“FROM EVERLASTING TO
EVERLASTING”

Sunday, November 23, 2025
Memorial Sunday Worship Service
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dan Borchers, Guest Pastor
Kathy Jurk, Organist Jacob Grunwald, Reader

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:

Christ, the King

Call To Worship:

(United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

Opening Prayer:

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love, and strengthen our lives for service in your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

♪ Hymn

St. James: (#20)

St. Mark's: (#342)

God of Might, We Praise Thy Name

Rejoice The Lord Is King

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.*



Young at Heart:

Prayer of Confession:

Most merciful God, have mercy on us. We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart: we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion, forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

Moment of Silence:

Words of Assurance:

The God of heaven and earth revealed to us in Jesus Christ loves us without reservation, so we are confident in God's forgiveness and pardon. Our God wants nothing more than that we should approach in humility and ask to be restored. So we rest in God's mercy and know that God's forgiveness is dependable, and is an invitation to live in peace and joy with our God and with one another. Amen.

♪ Hymn:

He Leadeth Me

St. James (#466), St. Mark's (#499)

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 46 ESV

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah*

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

*God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.*

*The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah*

*Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah*

Prayer for the Saints and Faithful Departed:

O God of both the living and the dead, we praise your holy name for all your servants who have faithfully lived and died. We thank you for the sacred ties that bind us to those unseen who encompass us as a cloud of witnesses. We pray that, encouraged by their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may be diligent followers and that nothing will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Reading of the Names and Lighting of the Candles:

St. James
*Kathryn Jaehnig
Steve Thuecks*

St. Mark's
*Sue Vandoske
Lynn Strynick
Kathryn Jaehnig*

St. James Choral Anthem

Finally Home

Scripture Readings:

Colossians 1:11-20 ESV

being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones

or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Luke 23: 33-43 ESV

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Message:

The Primacy of Christ

Rev. Dan Borchers

People's Prayer:

Come to us, O God, as we gather together and pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to 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.**

Offertory Music:

O Land Of Rest

~ 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 heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service, and dedicate our lives of the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

♪ Hymn:

St. James (#277), St. Mark's (#77)

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Benediction:

Postlude:

Blessed Be The Lord God

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 every Sunday.

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

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



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*November 23 – Wendy Meyer, Keri LaDuke-Rafeld
24 – Alex Perronne
26 – Amy Christianson, Marlene Kammann
27 – Maverick Beck
28 – Rev. Patrick Schultz
29 – Barb Reimer*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

November 25 – Henry & Bonnie Langenhahn

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE – Tuesday, Nov. 25th, 6:30pm.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION, Wednesday, November 26th, 7pm at St. James (Confirmants attend as part of their confirmation class)

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

- **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- **POINSETTIA ORDERS ARE DUE**
- **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JAMES**



The Giving Tree is up at St. Mark's and all of the labeled ornaments are ready to be picked up at St. James. All wrapped and labeled gifts are due on **Sunday, December 14th**

St. Mark's members may also sign up Online at:

<https://bit.ly/stmfamily2025>

Christmas Cookie Exchange

What is better than Christmas cookies? Having several different varieties!



If you would like to participate in a cookie exchange, sign up on the sheet in the St. Mark's church entry or let Lori know. Package your cookies in groups of 6 in bags, boxes, or plates. Signups are due by Saturday, December 6. I will let you know by Sunday, December 7 how many half-dozens to bring. Have your cookies at St. Mark's by 10:15 am on Sunday, December 14. After the church service, you will have a beautiful assortment of cookies to take home. A maximum of 15 people may participate. St. James friends are invited to participate as well.

If you would like to bring extras to offer at our Christmas Bingo event, that would be welcomed as well.

Please let Lori Roelse know if you have any questions, 920-946-3540. Merry Christmas! And Happy Baking!

Christmas Bingo

Fun for All Ages!

St. Mark's UCC

W1307 Orchard Rd., Cleveland

Sunday, December 14

11:30-2:00 (The Packers play at 3:25.)

Lunch will be provided.

A basket will be out for cash donations.

*Admission: Each person should bring a wrapped gift,
cost not to exceed \$5.*

*To sign up, call/text Lori at 920-946-3540
to give us an idea of how much food is needed.
Drop-ins are still welcome.*

Baked goods will be available for sale.

*Invite your friends, family, and neighbors.
The more the merrier!*