



**Christmas Eve December 24, 2025
at St. Mark's UCC 4:00pm & 7:00pm**
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk, Organist

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:

Quiet Songs of the Holy Night

Call To Worship:

For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,
Jesus Christ, the balm of healing, is born.

For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,
Jesus Christ, the light of the world, is born.

For you who rest in gratitude and contentment,
Jesus Christ, peace on earth, is born.

For you who feel the ache of loneliness,
Jesus Christ, Immanuel – God with us, is born.

For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,
Jesus Christ, the love of God, is born.

Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!
Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!

Opening Prayer:

We have waited for a long time for your hope, your peace, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God. Even now, in our gathering here, we await you. In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth, banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all the people back to you. Amen.

♪ Hymn

Away In a Manger #203

Light the First, Second, Third and Fourth Advent Candles:

You came into this world not in a show of power and glory, nor shining forth for all of creation to behold. Rather you were born,
a tiny spark – a newborn baby,
visible to parents and curious animals,
a host of angels – singing to shepherds watching over their flocks at night,
a sparkling star – guiding foreigners to see what neighbors could not.

**Open our hearts, merciful God,
to the sparks of your presence still in this world,
that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places,
and among the least likely of people.**

Light the Christ Candle:

God with us, kindle your spark within us,
that together we may shine forth your light,
we might banish the shadows of this world,
Emmanuel is in this world,
God is with us, now and evermore.

**Illumine our hearts, gracious God,
that we might speak anew the words your Son will teach us.**

Young at Heart:



♪ Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem #180

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:1-20 ESV

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Message:

The Quiet Giant of Christmas

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

♪ Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain #218

Coming to the Lord's Table:

Holy are you,
and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
As Mary and Joseph went
from Galilee to Bethlehem
and there found no room,
so Jesus went
from Galilee to Jerusalem
and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable
Jesus was born,
so, by the baptism
of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh,
born of woman,
on that night long ago,
so, on the night
in which he gave himself up for us
he took bread,
gave thanks to you,
broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat;"
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over
he took the cup,
gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
In remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance
of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves
in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us
the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours,
Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

And now,
with the confidence of children of God, let us 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:
~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

Doxology (sung):
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: (Luke 2:1-14)

Glorious God, as the shepherds rejoiced at the angel's news, we too bring our offerings with joy. Bless these gifts, that they may spread your good news of great joy to all people. Use them to bring peace, justice, and hope to our community and beyond. May our giving reflect the light of Christ, and may we be your instruments of love and generosity. *Amen.*

A Lighting of the Candles

Pastor lights a candle from the Christ Candle; the ushers light their candles from Pastor's candle. The ushers will then light the candle of each worshipper nearest the aisle and they will pass the light down the pew.

***Lighted candles should not be tipped, please tip the unlit candle to avoid hot dripping wax.*

♪ Hymn

Silent Night #186

Benediction:

Go now to love and serve the Lord
in all that you are,
and all that you do,
and all you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

In Excelsis Deo



*Poinsettias shared in love
with our church family this Christmas:*

Richard Binversie and Family ~ in memory of Karen Binversie

Todd Binversie Family ~ in memory of Karen Binversie

Dave and Cindy Call ~ in memory of our parents

Pat and Noreen Flook for the joy of Christmas

*Jon, Julie, Abby and Cole Herrmann ~ in memory of Lloyd, Mary Ellen
and Joel Schnelle*

Kathy and Mark Jurk ~ in memory of Kathy's brother, Larry Sommer

Marlene Kammann ~ in memory of Melvin Kammann

Kevin and Betty Kellner ~ in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Myron Bosman

Mike and Janice Marcheske ~ in memory of our parents

Bill and Dorothy Mueller ~ in memory of Kathryn Jaehnig

Bill and Lori Roelse ~ for the joy of Matthew and Ada Roelse

Bill and Lori Roelse ~ in memory of Matt Roelse

Chris Schnelle and Family ~ in memory of Joel Schnelle

Tim and Wendy Schueler ~ in memory of Orlin and Janet Schueler

*Jim and Bonnie Schuette ~ in memory of Ellsworth & Peggy Schuette
and Henry & LaVerta Boeldt*

Lee and Nancy Sixel ~ in memory of Ralph and Betty Sixel

Lee and Nancy Sixel ~ in memory of Jeff and Keith Sixel

Keith Strysick and Family ~ in memory of Lynn Strysick (2 plants)



Christmas Day Worship with Communion:

Thursday, December 25th , 10:00am at St. James UCC

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