



Wednesday, February 25, 2026
St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Wyatt Henschel, Carson Russart, Readers
Randy Sohn, 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:

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

****Bold text means to read in unison**

Call to Worship:

Why have we gathered together on the Lenten journey?

We gather to worship our Lord and God.

What happens when we gather to worship?

We listen and proclaim. We sing and pray. We repent and encourage.

What is asked of us?

That we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind.

And that we love our neighbor.

And what work does God do in worship?

God raises us up so that we can delight in life together with God and one another.

Come, let us worship God together!

Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

Hymn: (#5 Binder):

Blessed Assurance

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.*

[Please be seated]

Prayer:

God of hope, you breathe into the dust of our lives and remind us of your steadfast love. Give us strength, faith and courage to open ourselves to pain and joy, death and life, repentance and redemption. Remind us of who we are – vessels of your love and grace. In Christ's name, *Amen.*

First Reading:

Exodus 20:1-3 ESV

And God spoke all these words, saying,

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me

Second Reading:

John 2:13-22 ESV

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Message:

Justifiable Anger

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

People's Prayer:

Lord, hear the prayers we have lifted to you, the unspoken ones, the ones lying deep on our hearts, and the ones we have spoken or shared aloud. In our times of distress, we ask for protection; Have mercy on us. In times of abundance, we ask for continued blessings: Have mercy on us. All the days of our lives belong to you: Have mercy on us. Humbly we pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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:

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

~ The offering is brought to the altar while the congregation sings:

**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:

With gratitude for all the blessings you have poured into our lives, Lord Jesus, we come bringing these our gifts that they may be used in service to those in need. Bless these gifts and those who have given them, that they may truly be a blessing in your holy name. Amen.

Benediction:

Children of God, may Jesus Christ go ahead of you this week, turning over the tables that distract and raising you up in the abundant life of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Go now to love and serve the Lord

In all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be.

Postlude:

Dedication

This week Sunday, March 1, there will be a Joint Worship Service at 10am at St. James UCC.

A Congregational Meeting will follow the Worship Service.

Topic: Pastor's Salary

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: <https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

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



LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 4th, 7pm at St. Mark's
 Wednesday, March 11th, 7pm at St. James
 Wednesday, March 18th, 7pm at St. Mark's
 Wednesday, March 25th, 7pm at St. James
 Palm Sunday, March 29th,
 9am St. James, 10:30am St. Mark's

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd,
 7pm, St. James, Communion

Good Friday, April 3rd, 7pm
 St. Mark's, Communion

Easter! April 5th, Communion
 9am St. Mark's
 10:30am St. James



**St. James UCC
Chili Dinner!**

Sunday, March 1st, 11 to 1

13312 Pioneer Road, Spring Valley
Newton, WI 53063

CARRY OUTS ONLY
 Quart of Chili: \$10.00
 Gallon of Chili: \$25.00

All carry-outs include chili, crackers, fresh bread,
cheese & a dessert!

Hosted by the Consistories of St. James & St. Mark's UCC
on behalf of the Youth Fellowship

Bars are needed. Drop them off at St. James Saturday between 8-12am.