



Our job is to love people...

**...without stopping to
question if they are
worthy of our love
or not.**

Sunday, February 13, 2022

St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Organist: Ann Rodewald

Meditative Music

Bells Ring Prelude

Gathering for Worship:

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love For Me

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: As we gather this morning, we are no longer separated by geographical lines, by race, or status in society.

P: We are one community, together in the Lord's kingdom.

L: No matter where we were born, no matter where we live,

P: We are bound together made in and through the love of God.

L: Whether we are close enough to share stories over the backyard fence, or we need to travel for days for a visit, we are neighbors.

P: Let us welcome each other, love one another, and worship our God!

Hymn of Praise: **St. Mark's** (on screen) *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
St. James (# 100 The Hymnal) *O How shall I Receive Thee*

Young At Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

They may not be beaten down or lying by the road, but there are people we pass by, Watching God. Some are family and friends we take so much for granted we cannot see how we have stripped them of our love and compassion.

Others are neighbors:

who have been left half-dead by crushing work;
who have fallen into the hands of despair;
who have been abandoned by all those
who walked on by them.

Many are strangers, people we don't know, but quickly judge: they are weak, or poor, or the enemy, or because they remind us of who we once were or could become.

Rescue us from the power of our sins, Righteous One of all generations. Pour out your justice on us, rather than your judgement, that we would be moved with pity, and spurred to action; that we would hear of the hope that is ours, and share it with our sisters and brothers; that we would shower mercy on all we meet, even as we have received forgiveness for our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Words of Assurance:

God has rescued us and redeemed us from our sins, setting aside judgment to shower us with mercy. We will go and do likewise. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of Assurance: (#28 The Hymnal)

Lord Jesus Christ, Be With Us Now

Affirming Our Faith:

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.***

**Scripture Reading:
Message:**

Do Love

Luke 10:25-37
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

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:

More Like You

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we present this money, symbol of the work you have given us to do; use it, use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn of Sending: (#471 The Hymnal)

More Love To Thee

Closing Prayer: (all together)

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

Benediction:

Place your hand in the hand of God. Go forth into this world in complete assurance of God's presence and love. Bring hope, healing, and peace to all whom you meet. Go in peace and may God's peace be with you. *Amen.*

Postlude

Make Me a Blessing

Luke 10:25-37 ESV

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"

He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

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Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

GPS

Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.

Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.

Additional Text: Luke 10:25-42

I love today's story of Jesus and the Lawyer from today's scripture reading. You know the one. A legal expert asks Jesus what he needed to do to gain eternal life. Jesus responds with a question, "What is written in the law?" You must love the Lord your God and love your neighbor" the man replied. Good. You've answered your own question. Go do this.

But then came the question that leads to one of the most famous biblical stories – the story of the Good Samaritan. To understand what the story was about, it's good to understand what it is *not* about. It's not about doing more or feeling guilty if you don't. The very next story Luke tells us about busy, busy Martha and her lazy sister Mary, whom Jesus praises for laying about at his feet while Martha works, works, works. This message is not about doing more. It's a sermon about not confusing the knowing, understanding, feeling, thinking, or saying of love with the *doing* of love. Those are perfectly fine activities but only one of them leads to eternal life according to this story.

So, love God. Love a neighbor. Be a neighbor and let's not complicate life by arguing the details.

Prayer: Lord, we know you tell us to love and to do love. We don't always know what that means. Sometimes we make wrong choices in the name of love. Help us to better understand what you mean with this vital commandment. Help know how to love and how to be loved. We pray in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

NOTES:



Staying Close, Staying Connected

This week's celebrations:

BIRTHDAYS:

February: 16th – Cole Herrmann

17th – Everit Gumm

19th – Wyatt Koenig

No Anniversaries this week

WELCOME!

To the parents of young children:

Relax! *God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.*

- ❖ *Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.*
- ❖ *Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.*
- ❖ *Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.*
- ❖ *If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."*

LOOKING AHEAD... NEXT SUNDAY, Feb. 20th ...

***St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
9-10am Sunday School***

***St. James: 10:30am Worship
9-10:00 Sunday School***

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ST. JAMES CONSISTORY – Mon., Feb.14th , 6:30pm

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE – Tuesday, Feb. 15th, 6:30pm (practices will be held every Tuesday in February).

CONFIRMATION CLASS– Wed., Feb. 16th, 6-7:30pm at St. James

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP – Thursday, Feb. 17th, 6pm at St. Mark's

Registration Deadline – for RCF Soup Cook-Off next week Sunday, February 20th. Registration fee is \$10. Contact Judy Steinbeck from St. Mark's, 920-917-2398, if you're interested in participating.

HS YOUTH MEETING - NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, Feb. 20th, at St. James, 5:30pm.
*Be sure to bring your Bible.

ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE will be Wed., Feb. 23rd, 7pm

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care,
please contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858 or leave a message on the church's
answering machine at: 920-693-8361