



Sunday, January 29, 2023

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Are You Able?

Call To Worship:

L: You who makes the first to be last and the last to be first

P: You who frees the slave and enslaves the free;

L: You who makes wealth to be poverty and poverty, wealth

P: You who chides the pious and feasts with the faithless;

L: You who makes foe to be friend and friend to be foe

P: You who brings the outsider in and turns the insider out;

L: You are the God who calls us – a right-side-up-people

P: To become your upside-down kingdom;

Prayer:

You call us to embody the values of your heavenly kingdom. You call for a revolution of love, deposing our own ambitions, in which the freedom of grace breaks our bondage to greed. How you would love us! How you would save us – by changing us, by changing the world! We hear your call and respond, Lord.

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise father, son, and holy ghost

Hymn of Praise:

St. Mark's: (#118 Worship & Rejoice)
St. James: (#262 The Hymnal)

Lord of the Dance (1-3, 5)
Teach Me O Lord

Young at Heart:



Installation of Consistory Members:

St. James
Shelia Hemb
Scott Henschel
Wendy Meyer

St. Mark's
Ben Grunwald
Linda Schroeder

Hymn:

(#68 Worship & Rejoice)
(#476 Hymnal)

Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord, in you our souls make their boast. You are the God who frees the captive, who bears for them the burdens too great, and breaks for them the yokes too heavy, and suffers for them the wounds too grace. You are the God who strengthens the weak, who supports them against the winds too strong, and shores them up in struggles too grim, and sustains them down roads too long. You are the God who renews the faint, who swims for them the waters too deep, and leaps for them the hurdles too high, and lights for them the ways too dark. Stretch our your hand, O Lord, and we will flee sin; break down barriers of evil; and overcome obstacles standing in our way of you.

Words of Assurance:

In you, O Lord, our souls make their boast, for in you they will be freed! They bless you at all times, for in you they will be strengthened! They exalt your name together, for in you they will be renewed!

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Message: *You've Got Weeds in My Wheat; You've Got Wheat in My Weeds*
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response:

(#438 Worship & Rejoice; insert)

On Eagle's Wings

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:

The Wheat and the Weeds

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (based on Exodus 33:12-23)

God of Power and Glory, we come to your altar this morning, offering our gifts and praying for your presence in a world that is hurting and divided. Much of what we see is chaos, confusion, and anxiety – a world that desperately needs to glimpse your presence and your glory. More than just our gifts of money, we pray our lives might be a window into your love and compassion. We pray your light might shine through us to the world. *Amen.*

Prayer of the People and the 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:

St. Mark's (#722 Worship & Rejoice)
St. James (#435 Hymnal)

Praise and Thanksgiving
Praise To God

Benediction:

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

Postlude:

Festal Postlude

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NIV)

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

"An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

"No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.



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.stmstjucc.org

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