



October 24, 2021

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Organist: Ann Rodewald

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Where He Leads Me I Will Follow

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: To the fisherman Jesus said:

P: "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

L: To the tax collector Jesus said:

P: "Follow me."

L: To the rich man Jesus said:

P: "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

L: At the last supper Jesus said:

P: "Follow me."

Opening Prayer (all together):

Work through us, your church, your chosen people, to help bring light to this community. We declare ourselves "followers of Christ" and bring healing and restoration to those who are broken and are in need of a touch from the Lord. We are your hands, feet and mouth bringing the good news as you have shown us. In your name we pray. *Amen.*

Affirmation of Faith/Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty

God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

Hymn of Life:

Take My Life and Let it Be

Young At Heart:



Welcoming our New Members

Brian and Sheila Hemb – St. James

Charles and Joanie Mohr – St. Mark's

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Words of Assurance [Psalm 103:8-12]: (all together)

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. *Amen.*

Hymn of Assurance:

Stand up, Stand up for Jesus

Prayer of Illumination:

Lord, your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light upon our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow the path you have set before us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading:**Message:***Life Everlasting***Mark 10:17-30**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

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, 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:*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~**Cares Chorus***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)**

Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Sending:*The Summons***Benediction:**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to our Nation, peace; and to the world, justice. To us all, the followers of Christ, the promise of everlasting life, light to guide us on our way, courage to support us, and your blessing to unite us in service to you our God. *Amen.*

Postlude*Festal Postlude***Mark 10:17-30 ESV**

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.



This week's celebrations:

Birthdays:

October 24th - Donald Hemb, Dawson Strynick, Marlee Strynick
25th - Brooklyn Vandoske
26th - Cindy Call, Bob Vandoske
27th - Wendy Henschel
29th - Bonnie Schuette
30th - Colton Scharl

Anniversaries:

October 24th - Todd & Jody Binversie
26th - Clarence & Heidi Belitz
29th - Mark & Kathy Stolzmann

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, Oct. 31st

***St. James Worship Service begins at 9:00am,
Sunday School: 10:00-11:00am***

***St. Mark's Worship Service begins at 10:30am,
Sunday School: 9:00-10:00am***

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TODAY - email them to Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com

STUDY GROUP~STUDY OF LUKE - Mon., Oct. 25th, 6:00pm, at St. Mark's

ST. JAMES CHOIR REHEARSAL- Tues., Oct. 26th, 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Wednesday, Oct. 27th

**STUDY GROUP~GETTING ACQUAINTED - Thurs., Oct. 28th,
6:00 pm at St. Mark's**

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

GPS

NOTES:

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:

John 3:16 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Revelation 22

I believe in life everlasting. How is life everlasting experienced?

It cannot be earned.

The young man who approached Jesus felt he was good enough. He maintained the 10 Commandments. He thought he had it all and had been good enough to earn his way into eternal life, but when Jesus said – go and sell everything you have and give it away... the young man was despondent. His weakness was material, monetary, the “good life!” Fact is, we can’t be good enough to earn eternal life.

It is a gift.

Paul said, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...” Wages are what you earn; gifts are what you receive. While we cannot earn (or be good enough for) eternal life, we can receive it as a gift.

What do you do when you receive a gift? Do you say, how much do I owe you? The truth is a gift has been paid for. Eternal life is a gift; you don’t pay for it. Somebody else has already paid the price.

Prayer: Lord, keep me humble and grounded. *Amen.*