

April 11, 2021
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Call to Worship:

L: Risen and ascended Lord Jesus,
When we are numbed by the suffering of the world,
Take us back to the deep truth:

**P: The truth of your power and glory,
Of your invincible Kingdom,
Of your promise of reconciliation.**

L: In the knowledge of this truth,
Help us to bring our gaze to earth
And find the strength to go into the world,
**P: To do your will on earth as in heaven,
To build the kingdom of God,
To share the Good News.**

Opening Prayer (All together):

**We gather in this place, some empty, some filled, some whole, some broken:
yearning for the Holy Spirit to be with us. We come, following Jesus Christ and
our sisters and brothers, moms and dads, grandparents, husbands and wives,
friends and neighbors who have shown us the way: trusting that God will
continue to illumine our hearts. May we be servants of Christ that we bring
hope to the world. Amen.**

Young at Heart



Hymn of Jubilation:

Gather Us In

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (all together):

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen

Prayer of Confession:

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord,
the way we live proclaims our lack of faith
in his power to deal with the world.

Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust.

While we sing of your lordship over all creation,
we have too often acted as though you are powerless
in the face of today's events.

Help us to live with confidence in your presence today
and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance: (all together):

On this day we gather in the presence of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the glory of God's kingdom. We do confess our sins; and we are confident through the crucifixion of Jesus that our sins are forgiven. As we praise and worship You this morning, we draw strength from the Holy Spirit;

we draw inspiration from the Apostles; and we are assured that God loves us. In Christ's precious name. *Amen.*

Song of Assurance: *The Kingdom of God on Earth*

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-5, 12-14
Message: *Stop & Listen*
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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: *Because He Lives*

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Father Almighty, I love and adore you with all my heart. Thank you for creating me and helping me to be a follower of Christ. Keep me safe through the days and nights. I offer you all my works and actions each day.

I lift all my thoughts and intentions, all my affection and desires. I gladly offer these throughout the day. Grant that they may be in according to your will and only for your greater glory, Lord.

Keep me away from all sin and evil. Let your grace always be with me and my loved ones. May they feel your presence through me. I pray that I never lose sight of you all day long. Accept my offerings, dear God. Let me die for love of you. Let my last heartbeat be an act of perfect love as Jesus showed us how. In Your Son Jesus' name I pray. *Amen.*

A Sending Forth Song: *In Christ We Are One Body*

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. As our worship has ended our service in the Lord is just beginning. Go to love and serve the Lord, now and always. *Amen*

Postlude *Lift High the Cross*

Acts 1:1-5, 12-14 NRSV

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.



This Week:

Monday, April 12th - St. James Consistory, 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 14th - Confirmation Class, 6pm

Saturday, April 17th - NE Association Zoom Meeting, 8am to 5pm

St. James Spring Yard Clean-Up Day, weather permitting
(raindate is April 24th)

Sunday, April 18th - St. Mark's - 9am Worship; 9-10am Sunday School

St. James - 10:30 Worship; 9:15-10:15 Sunday School

**Newsletter Articles due Monday, April 26th.



Church Members we celebrated last week:

Birthdays:

April 5th - Karen Binversie

7th - Karen Becker, Dale Sprenger, Eric Stolzmann

9th - Heidi Konz

Anniversaries:

April 6th - Jason & Jenny Riesterer

9th - David & Christine Gumm

Church Members we celebrate this week:

Birthdays:

April 11th - Bonnie Langenhahn

12th - Johnathan Grunwald, Gene Kaestner, Michael Stolzmann

13th - LaVern Wippermann

14th - Alivia Maxey

15th - Lee Schmitz

16th - Jerry Jetzer, Dorothy Mueller

17th - Brenda Schultz

Anniversary:

April 14th - Dean & Emily Sprenger

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MANY THINGS SPIRIT
TRUTH LEAD COMPLETE
SPEAKING LEARNT GLORIFY
TAKEN MINE FATHER