



April 25, 2021

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

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

Website: www.stmstjucc.org email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com
phone: 920.693.8361

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

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

The Lord Is My Light

Call to Worship:

L: Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

P: Shine your light in me today.

L: Chase away the darkness of sin,

P: The darkness of fear and doubt and despair.

L: Fill me with the light of your truth, your Word.

P: Produce in me the fruit of righteousness – the evidence that your Holy Spirit lives in me and works in me and works through me.

L: Teach me what is pleasing to You.

P: Make me a shining example of your amazing grace, redeeming love, and life-changing power. May others be drawn to you through me.

Opening Prayer (All together): [written by Confirmand, Luke Grunwald]
Dear Lord, I want to praise God for being merciful and forgiving. I want to thank God for giving us life and blessings. I want to admit to God that we sin and are often-times lost. I want to conclude with thanking God for his time and patience. **Amen.**

Young at Heart



Hymn of Jubilation:

Jesus I Live To Thee

Intercessory Prayer – Prayers for the People of the World

Jesus says: "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world." We pray now for the world in which we are called to let our light shine; for the people who will see our good deeds; and for the church in which the light of the gospel is proclaimed.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Provide faithful servants to preach and share your good news and to teach your commandments. Strengthen the faith of your people through word and sacrament. Bless the members of our congregation that they may be salt and light in the world. Bring to faith those who do not yet know you.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on all nations and bless our own land. Bring honesty and justice, peace and safety everywhere. Bless and protect people in work and leisure.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Comfort those who are suffering, downcast or oppressed. Lift the fallen and satisfy the needs of the hungry, the refugees, the homeless and those who lack even basics such as clothing. Help all who are in any trouble.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Bless the farmers of our nation – let the toils of their labor be rewarded by rich, fruitful and plentiful returns.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Watch over the children in our families, of our churches and communities. Keep them safe and from all harm.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Father, your Son is the light shining in the darkness of our world. Teach us to love one another as you love us, so that we may bring peace and joy to the world. Hear our prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Song of Assurance:

Here, O My Lord

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:14-16

Message:

Change our World: How We Influence Others
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, 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:

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Gracious God, you call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in your love and provision. Give us courage to step out boldly, to plant our small seeds generously, and without fear. Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

A Sending Forth Song:

It Is Well With My Soul

Benediction

In this world: kingdom living.

In our mouths: kingdom praises.

In our hearts: kingdom goals.

In our hands: kingdom gifts.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven! *Amen*

Postlude

We Are God's People

Matthew 5:14-15 NLT

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.



THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE:

Birthdays:

April 28th – Ronald Henschel, Abby Herrmann

30th – Ryan Binversie

Anniversaries:

April 28th – Jack & Wendy Schnelle

29th – Ron & Sue Vandoske

30th – Gene & Kathy Kaestner; Thad & Crissy Athorp

May 1st – Steven & Mary Jo Gabsch

WEEKLY REMINDERS:

Mon., April 26th - Newsletter Articles due

Wed., April 28th – 6pm, Confirmation Class

Sun., May 2nd -- St Mark's - 9am Worship; 9-10am Sunday School

Mark's Sunday School Car Wash during the church service. Raindate = May 16th

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

Wed., May 12th – St. James Brat Fry, 4-7pm. Carry Outs only

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:

Jeremiah 15:1; Hebrews 13:16; 2 Corinthians 10:13-16; Galatians 6:4

Have you ever thought to yourself – our world could be a better place to live? If only... That thought has been prevalent throughout the ages. God thought it could be better. And God sometimes took steps to help make the world a better place. We know the story of Noah and the Ark; or Moses and the Exodus; or the prophets of the Old Testament who spoke to the people on behalf of God. Nothing seemed to work really. So, God came to live among us ~ Jesus, Son of God.

While that has made a world of difference for all of us, I can safely say our world still has a long way to go. As followers of Christ we are called to be influencers ~ to make a difference in our world. Yet, a far-reaching grasp of influence – like that of Malala, Amanda Gorman, Greta Thunberg, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King Jr, John Donne or Gandhi – intimidate us. And we wonder (to the point of inaction at times) how can I possibly do what they did?

Here's the thing. God never has and does not call us to change the world, the whole world, all by ourselves. God calls us to love Him; love our neighbors; to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. We are called to help change the world one person at a time; one day at a time; one ministry at a time. I agree with Mother Theresa who told us “Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.” What small things with great love can you do?

Here are seven streams of influence – that influence us. Are there others you can think of:
 } Church. } Government. } Arts and Entertainment. } Education. } Business. } Media. }
 Family.

Prayer: Gracious God, we might not be able to paint the whole world, but we can color in a small spot. Guide us, move us, strengthen us to answer your call to each of us. *Amen.*