



**May 16, 2021**  
**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
 Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
 Ann Rodewald, Organist    Lori Roelse, Reader

Meditative Music  
 Bells Ring  
 Prelude Gathering for Worship

*Holy Spirit, Fill me Now*

**Call to Worship:**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**P: This is the day when our God can be found.**

L: God of all, breath of life.  
**P: Living water, savior, friend.**

L: Come as the hungry and feed on his Word.  
**P: Come as the thirsty to drink of his Love**

L: Come as the faithful to worship the Lord.  
**P: May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness; the grace of God our Creator grant us peace; the breath of Holy Spirit instill us with passion; and the unity between them give us strength for this and every day**

**Opening Prayer (All together):**

Glorious Trinity, make your presence known in this place, through our worship, our prayer, the reading of your Word, and in the fellowship we shall enjoy. Through our music, our prayer and meditation, the hearing of the Word and your message, we worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Enfold us in your love, and empower our worship that your name might be glorified in this place and in our lives. *Amen.*

Young at Heart  
 Hymn of Life:



*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

**Prayer of Confession:**

We confess, O Lord, that we are a people who want to have everything proven for us. We hear the message of the scripture of Jesus' ascension, and we smile smugly, not truly believing the vision. Forgive us our arrogant doubts and attitudes of smugness. Help us remember that everything Jesus taught us was to prepare us to help build God's kingdom here on earth. We are called to be people of faith, not of absolute proof. Today, this morning, in this moment we place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Let us look with eyes of faith as he ascends to the Father. *Amen.*

**Words of Assurance: (all together)**

**While we have not stood with the disciples to see the ascension of Jesus Christ to God, we yet believe in the love and power of Christ who taught us how to be faithful and joyful disciples. Rejoice, and believe in him who came that we may have abundant life. *Amen.***

**Song of Assurance:**

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

**Scripture Reading:**

**Message:**                      *God of all gods*

**Psalm 47**  
 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:

*Hear My Prayer*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)**

**We bring to you the first tenth of our fruits of labor. We bring our tithes. We bring our time. We bring our prayers. We bring our desire to know you better and to share your good news with others. Bless our offerings and multiply them to glory of your kingdom, now and always. Amen.**

**A Sending Forth Song:**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**Benediction**

God's love is poured to all the people, no matter how many times they turned their backs and decided that their own ways were best. In the fullness of time, God's son, Jesus, came to teach and witness to the powerful and gentle love of God. And in God's time, Jesus changed the whole world....

Now, in this time and in this place, we, the family of God, are called to live and breathe the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. In our homes, in our work, in our schools, everywhere, we are called to be God's family of compassionate love and justice.

Friends and Beloved of Christ, you have been chosen to go into this world with the message of God's love. Bear fruit of hope and joy, peace and justice, with all that you meet. May God's peace be with you all. *Amen.*

**Postlude**

*Crown Him, Ye Martyrs of Your God*

**LOOKING FORWARD TO:**

Wed., May 19<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Class, 6pm

Sun., May 23<sup>rd</sup> – St. James - 9am Worship

St. Mark's – 10:30 Worship

Tues., May 25<sup>th</sup> – Newsletter Articles Due

CONFIRMATION AT ST. JAMES TODAY,

CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARK'S NEXT SUNDAY AT 10:30

Confirmation Services at both churches are being recorded and may be viewed on our church YouTube channel (by going to <http://bit.ly/stmstjucc>)

**PSALM 47 ESV**

Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.  
He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.  
He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm!

God reigns over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.  
The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted!

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**THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE:**

Birthdays: May 16<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Peterson, Jr.

19<sup>th</sup> – Jackie Henschel, Jean Henschel, Carson Spindler

20<sup>th</sup> – Noreen Flook

21<sup>st</sup> – Owen Schnelle

22<sup>nd</sup> – Samuel DeBlaey, Daniel Kleinhans

Anniversaries: May 16<sup>th</sup> – Warren & Karen Vandoske

18<sup>th</sup> – Pat & Noreen Flook

21<sup>st</sup> – Randall & Karen Krause

**NEXT WEEK WE CELEBRATE:**

Birthdays: May 26<sup>th</sup> – Stacy Hermann

27<sup>th</sup> – Steven Schultz

28<sup>th</sup> – Jared Luebke, Wendy Schnelle, Carlene Sohn

29<sup>th</sup> – Carson Russart

30<sup>th</sup> – Kelly Luebke

Anniversaries: May 31<sup>st</sup> – Mark & Kathy Jurk

## 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:**

Genesis (Gen.) 1 & 2; Gen. 3; Gen. 11:1-9

To understand the hope for the universal reconciliation that Psalm 47 tells of, we need to understand the foundations of separation between us and God. How is it that God has given us the whole world and at one time gave us everything we could possibly need. Yet, time and again we have turned that into a sorry and fractured pass, characterized by sin, hostility and self-focused isolation?

Gen. 1 tells the story of creation and the original unity of humanity, creation, and God. It embodies the partnership of male and female, in all its diversity, reflecting the divine image in and of creation. And the authority of Yahweh is extended to it.

Gen. 2 reflects the wistful cry that Adam alone was not good. Adam needed a counterpart – an equal with whom he could be in harmony with. But from that point on Gen. tells of the destructive and sinful nature of humanity that befell the Garden and all that was beautiful within it.

From eating the forbidden fruit; to murdering Abel by Cain; to the Great Flood washing the world clean; to the Tower of Babel; and our time and day we see the great need for reconciliation. In order to fully embrace the depth of Psalm 47, we embrace the truth of the sinfulness of all humanity. Yet, through all of Israel and then the whole of humanity is to find the benediction of God traversing us from the curse of sin into the gracious blessing of God.

**Prayer:** God, we know the need for restoration to your grace. Individually we know we cannot continue to perpetuate a sinful, hateful, destructive nature. But, collectively as a population we struggle to put you first. Have mercy on us, O Lord. *Amen.*

## NOTES:

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