



May 2nd , 2021
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist

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Send an email to be added to our prayer chain.

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

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship

St. Mark's: *O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing*
St. James: *Blessed Quietness*

Call to Worship:

L: We come with joy to this celebration of God's love!

P: Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.

L: We come with hope to witness to God's power!

P: Challenge and encourage our spirits to serve you, Lord.

L: We come with a willingness to proclaim God's presence to all.

P: We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve.

Opening Prayer (All together):

Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. We gather here today to hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ. He prepared his disciples for ministry – even as he has prepared us. He gave to them the words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. Amen.

Affirmation of our Faith:

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead: I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. Amen.

Young at Heart



Hymn of Life:

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Prayer of Confession:

On this 5th Sunday of Easter, hope springs anew in our hearts. As the earth is being refreshed by the warmth of spring, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to stay in this euphoria forever. But you have called us to go into the valley, to those who need to hear of your love and to feel your caring presence. In his words of hope, Jesus prepared his disciples to be witnesses. We have heard these words before, but far too often, we have turned our backs to this message. We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love. So, we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others. We take more time pampering ourselves than we do helping other people. It is easier to justify our own desires than it is to witness to your transforming love. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Turn us around. Help us to face our weakness and your forgiving grace. Heal us of our sins and place us again on the paths of peace. We ask this in Jesus' Name.

Words of Assurance: (all together):

God has remembered His steadfast love to all the people. Abide in His eternal love. Let its power and joy penetrate your hearts and spirits, preparing you for new growth in the Spirit. We are healed and called to be again God's beloved children and witnesses. Receive that healing love and share the good news with all you meet, that God is love and in God there is no darkness or fear. Amen.

Song of Assurance:

There Is a Green Hill Far Away

Scripture Reading:

I Cor 13:4-13

Message:

Change Our World: How I Am Influenced
~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

St. Mark's: *The Sheltering Rock*
St. James: *Praise Him! Praise Him!*

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: [1John 4:7-21] (all together)

Holy Lord, you have perfected love among us by sending your son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. We humbly acknowledge your gift is an overwhelming pronouncement of grace. We share these tithes and offerings today with the hope that your children everywhere will be anointed with the knowledge that your perfect love casts out all fears. Amen.

A Sending Forth Song:

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Benediction:

Sisters and Brothers, Beloved of Christ, you have been gifted and chosen to go into this world with the message of Christ's love of all. Bear fruit of hope and joy, peace, and justice, with all whom you meet. May God's peace be with you as you go to love and serve the Lord. Amen

Postlude

St. Mark's: *Let There Be Joy*
St. James: *Go Forth with Joy*

I Cor 13:4-13



Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This Week We Celebrate:

- Birthdays: May 2nd – Luke Grunwald, Timothy Heckmann, Brian Henschel, Layla Schultz
- 4th - William Heckmann
- 5th - John VanDerMale
- 7th - David Lutze
- 8th – JoAnn Grant, Henley Hermann
- Anniveraries: May 2nd – Jared & Emily Urban

Looking Forward To:

- Mon., May 3rd- St. James, Stewardship Meeting, 6:30pm
- Wed., May 5th – Confirmation Class, 6pm
- Thurs., May 6th- St. Mark's Consistory, 6:30pm
- Sun., May 9th – Last day of Sunday School-Both Churches
 - St. James - 9am Worship; 10-11am Sunday School (STJ Sunday School presents during STJ Worship Service)
 - St. Mark's -10:30 Worship; 9-10am Sunday School
- Wed., May 12th – St. James Brat Fry, 4-7pm. Carry Outs only
 - *Confirmation—May 16th at St. James; May 23rd at St. Mark's

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:

Psalm 34:11-20; Proverbs 16:9; Acts 16:31; Mark 5:19;

Psalm 90:17; Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 3:15

We all desire to make a difference in our own world. I believe wholeheartedly that we make a difference in the lives closest to us: our spouse, our siblings, our children. The greater question is what kind of difference are we making? Are we positive, healthy, godly influencers to those closest to us? How are we influencing those a step removed – beyond our closest intimates? How does our influencing reflect how we lead others?

Many of us think we're not leaders, we think that kind of influence is for others. But the truth is we are all leaders (all influencers). God has given us the gift of influence. When you read Psalm 34:11-20, write down the thoughts that come to mind about how God plants desires in each of us, when we delight in Him.

When you read Proverbs 16:1-9, ask yourself ~ what would happen if the whole church began to ask God for those moments that can make a difference in others' lives?

What passion has God put in your heart? If you don't know, ask God to show you what He's putting in you. If you do know, think about how you can use that passion to make a difference where you are. Make a list of those you consider to be in your sphere of influence. Ask God to create moments for you to impact their lives this week.

The secret to changing the world we live in is using our influence to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. Let that be our intent.

Prayer: Lord, grant us confidence in the gifts you have given to us that they may be used to transform our world – for the kingdom of God. *Amen.*

NOTES: