



# THE CHURCH

GOD'S WISDOM ON DISPLAY

May 22, 2022

**St. James United Church of Christ**

*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: (responsively)**

L: Blessed be the Lord of Hosts, who cleanses and heals our lives.

**P: Praise be to God!**

L: Blessed be the Holy One, who brings us from despair to hope.

**P: Praise be to God!**

L: Blessed be the Giver of Life, who nurtures and comforts us.

**P: Let us praise God with our whole hearts and souls!**

**Opening Prayer: O Lord, our God, when we in awesome wonder consider all the worlds your hands have made; we see the sun rise in grandeur ~ the sun set with splendor each day. Our souls sing to you, O Lord - our Savior God. Your son who died for each of us and will one day return to our shouts of acclamation. Our heart, our soul, our voices sing to you ~ how great you are Lord.**

**Hymn of Praise:** (#40 - Binder)

*How Great Thou Art (Vs 1,3,4)*



**St. James Young at Heart:**

**Prayer of Confession:**

It is easy for us to go through the motions of spirituality. We want to say the “right” prayers and think that we have found the magical key to make holiness appear in our lives. But we are empty, Lord. We hunger and thirst for something that will sustain us through all the times of our lives. The good and the bad.

We chase after things that will disappoint and hurt and look past the very thing that will heal and cleanse our lives. Help us to stop running after the glitz and glitter, the easy wealth; help us to look truly for the one who will quench our thirst and nourish our souls. Help us to remember that we stand continually in need of your healing mercy. Bring us to you, with open and repentant hearts, for your loving care. When we go from this place, let it be with a renewed commitment to serve you, O God, with our very lives. *Amen.*

**Words of Assurance:**

**For Christ alone feeds us and sustains us in grace and love. We are followers of Christ, his disciples committed to loving one another and loving God. Hear us O Lord, as we sing our praises to you. *Amen.***

***Hymn of Assurance:*** (#305 The Hymnal)

*Come Unto Me, Ye Weary*

**Affirming 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.*

**Scripture Reading:**

Ephesians 4:11-16

**Message:** [B THE 99] Would You Rather Be a Sheep Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**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:**

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

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

Gracious Lord, you have lavished upon us the riches of your glory. As Jesus fed the masses, providing enough for all with more than enough left over, so to you have fed us and provided for us. As you have given to us out of your abundance, we return our offering with praise and thanksgiving. *Amen.*

**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.*

**Hymn of Sending: (#322 The Hymnal)**

*The Church's One Foundation*

**Closing Prayer: (all together)**

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

**Benediction:**

May you know the richness and fullness of God's grace. May you experience every dimension of the love of Christ. May the Spirit dwell within you through faith. To the Holy One, whose power works within us to accomplish more than we could ask or imagine or comprehend, be glory forever and ever! *Amen.*

**Postlude:**

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

## Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

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Check out our website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team~contact Karen in our Church office:  
[stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)