



May 23, 2021

Pentecost

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

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 (page 469)

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 47

Message:

God of all gods

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:

Come, Gracious Spirit

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 (page 184)

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

Spirit of the Living God

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

Tues., May 25th – Newsletter Articles Due

Sun., May 30th – St. James - 9am Worship

St. Mark's – 10:30 Worship

CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARK'S TODAY AT 10:30

Confirmation Services at both churches is 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!

LAST WEEK WE CELEBRATED:

Birthdays: May 16th – Andrew Peterson, Jr.

19th – Jackie Henschel, Jean Henschel, Carson Spindler

20th – Noreen Flook

21st – Owen Schnelle

22nd – Samuel DeBlaey, Daniel Kleinhans

Anniversaries: May 16th – Warren & Karen Vandoske

18th – Pat & Noreen Flook

21st – Randall & Karen Krause

THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE:

Birthdays: May 26th – Stacy Hermann

27th – Steven Schultz

28th – Jared Luebke, Wendy Schnelle, Carlene Sohn

29th – Carson Russart

30th – Kelly Luebke

Anniversaries: May 31st – Mark & Kathy Jurk

Pentecost Communion Liturgy

Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, where bread and cup are transformed by the Spirit of God into a meal of love and grace ~ a supper of visions and dreams ~ a table where all souls are welcome.

Prayer of Communion

Loving God, whose Divine Lungs exhaled the Spirit into our World. Your breath continues to transform our world from the still to the stirring. Before the earth was formed the Spirit of God swirled through voids and shadows.

As woman and man were created the air of God filled the lungs of Adam and the soul of Eve. This Divine Air continues to fill us up when our bones are dry, and spirits are sluggish.

On this day of Pentecost when we celebrate the breath of the Spirit coming upon the disciples, we invite the Spirit to come upon these elements.

God of winds, pour out your Spirit to make the elements come alive for us.

Make this meal awaken our sleepy hearts and stagnant souls.
May this time of eating and drinking be one where we stir from our sadness and rise from our hopelessness. May we begin to celebrate visions
And animate the dreams that have only been alive in our minds.

As we share this meal, we remember our sisters and brothers in faith who came to this table in the decades and centuries past and our children who will surround this table in the future.

Each generation uniquely celebrates your presence, Spirit of Life.

The night before Jesus died was a solemn time around the table.

Breaking bread. Drinking from the cup.

Jesus asking to remember him in our eating and drinking. There was a time to mourn followed by a time to dance.

After the day of resurrection

The disciples ate on the beach with the risen Christ

Celebrating new life, new hope, new vitality.

On this

Pentecost, as we come to the table,

let us celebrate the Spirit of Resurrection

And the promise of a needed second wind in our own lives.

Let us partake of this celebratory meal together.

Spirit of God, who

fed the multitudes, provided the manna in the wilderness, and blessed the elements, we give great thanks for the meal prepared before us and the company surrounding us.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

All honor and glory is yours,

Almighty Father, now and for ever.



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:

Website: www.stmstjucc.org email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com
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Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC