

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."



Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Sunday, May 29, 2022

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

God of our Fathers

L: Children of God: Welcome!

P: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

L: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

P: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

L: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

P: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

L: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God as we join together in our opening prayer...

Opening Prayer*:

O Lord, our God when we, in awesome wonder consider all We are children of God; called to praise, and to bless, and to show mercy.

We are citizens of a nation; called to care, and to respond, and to share our freedom. We are members of a community; called to know each other, and to accept each other, and to welcome all. We belong to God, and through God, to one another so may our hearts be as one as we lift every voice and sing:

Hymn of Praise:

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast - ening rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty;
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the lis - tening skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast, by thy might, led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered,
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee,

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.

We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance:

**Friends. Sisters, brothers: hear this good news and see the grace of God:
You are forgiven. We are forgiven. Go and live in the light of love. Thanks be to God. *Amen.***

Hymn of Assurance: (#316 Hymnal)

Jesus, Lover of my Soul

Affirming Our Faith:

Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

Message:

B THE 99

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:

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

May these gifts be used to build the Beloved Community through our unity, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. *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: (#323 Hymnal)

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Closing Prayer: (all together)

God creates. God loves. God's hope for all that God made is one of a peaceable reign of love and justice. Filled with gratitude for all God's good gifts, God's hope is our hope. Our hope connects with God's hope. Empower us, O God, to share in both your vision and work for the entire world. *Amen.*

Benediction:

Postlude:


God Bless America

*Call To Worship; Opening Prayer: Attributed to Beth Merrill Neel (*Hold Fast To What is Good*)

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3 ESV

Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858 or leave a message on the church's answering machine at 920-693-8361

Like us on Facebook  Check out our website: www.stmstjucc.org
Join our prayer team~contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com



This week's celebrations:

BIRTHDAYS:

May 29th – Carson Russart

30th – Kelly Luebke

June 1st – Janet Schueler

4th – Ashley Lutzke, Tim Miota

ANNIVERSARIES:

May 31st – Mark & Kathy Jurk

June 3rd – Tim & Angel DeBlaey

Dale & Doris Sprenger

LOOKING AHEAD... NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 5th ...

Pentecost, Communion served at both churches

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship

St. James: 10:30am Worship

HS Youth Volleyball League – first practice on Monday, May 30th, 4:00pm

St. Mark's Consistory Meeting - Thursday, June 2nd, 6:30pm

St. James Consistory Meeting – Monday, June 6th, 6:30pm

WELCOME!

To the parents of young children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.

- ❖ Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.
- ❖ Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.
- ❖ Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.
- ❖ If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

NOTES: