



**May 30, 2021**  
**St. James United Church of Christ**  
**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Ann Rodewald, Organist

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship

*Holy Holy Holy*

**Call to Worship: (responsively)**

L: Sing joyfully,  
P: Praise the Lord!

L: Make music to him,  
P: Sing to him a new song.

L: Play skillfully your instruments of praise,  
P: And shout for joy.

L: For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.  
P: The earth is full of his undying love.

**Opening Prayer (All together):**

God of majesty and power, how awesome you are to us! The mountains tremble, the seas roar at the sound of your name! Yet you have chosen to come to us in love and tenderness. You have called us to be people who will act in ways of peace and justice in your world. Open our hearts and our spirits, Lord, to hear your word, and having heard, to act in ministries of hope and peace for all your earth. These things we pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

Young at Heart



Hymn of Life:

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Prayer of Confession:**

We come to you O Gracious God, hiding in the shadows of our own fears and terrors. We want you to give us peace and hope in our hearts. We want to know that everything will be all right; that the world will cease to be a place of terror and war. We want to be born again in a spirit of hope. But, we must not come to you for only our own sake. Let us come to you to learn what you would have us be and do in this world. Forgive our selfishness, Lord. Calm our fears and heal our spirits. Let us truly listen to you so that we may be witnesses to your peace and justice which you seek for the world. Saturate us with your light and wisdom. Empower us to be those who bring peace, which is not only an absence of war, but peace which promotes an attitude of love. Clear away the clutter in our lives and place us on paths of service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. *Amen.*

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

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we no longer doubt the power and might of God! It is God who has created all that is! It is God who has called our hearts and spirits. It is God who is with us and has never forsaken us but forgiven and loved us from creation till end of times. Praise be to God, *amen.*

Song of Assurance:

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**Scripture Reading:**

**Psalm 33:1-12 (NIV)**

Message: *Blessed is the Nation Whose God is Lord* 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](http://stmstjucc.org)).

## Offertory Music:

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

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

We dedicate these gifts, freely given and gratefully received, to the work of this congregation: Building honest, caring relationships across all lines of difference; Growing in spirit and searching for meaning, together and apart; Upholding religious freedom, practicing compassion, and working for justice. May these gifts, and the work of our hands and hearts, give power to all we stand for as a community of faith. *Amen.*

## A Sending Forth Song:

*Make Me a Captive, Lord*

## Benediction

God of infinite patience, loving presence, and dazzling surprises, be with us as we leave this place today. Guide and guard our lives and bless our witness to your love. We go in peace seeking ministries of justice and hope. *Amen.*

## Taps (St. James)

Ally Wasmer

## Postlude

*God of Our Fathers*

## LOOKING FORWARD TO:

Memorial Day services will be held at St. James UCC on Monday, May 31, 2021, at 8:15 am by the American Legion Post from St. Nazianz.

Our hearts are with the families of those individuals who gave their lives for our country.



Wed., June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 pm – St. Mark's Consistory meeting

Thurs. June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm – St. James Consistory meeting

Sun., June 6<sup>th</sup> St. Mark's - 9am Worship

St. James - 10:30am Worship

## THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:

### Birthdays:

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Kelly Luebke

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Janet Schuler

4<sup>th</sup> – Ashley Lutzke, Tim Miota

5<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Heckmann

6<sup>th</sup> – Johnathon Koenig

### Anniversaries:

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

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tim & Angel DeBlaey

3<sup>rd</sup> – Dale & Doris Sprenger

6<sup>th</sup> – Thomas & Stacy Hermann

Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org) email: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com) phone: 920.693.8361

Send an email to be added to our prayer chain.

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

## GPS

### PSALM 33:1-12 NIV

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.  
Praise the LORD with the harp;  
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.  
Sing to him a new song;  
play skillfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the LORD is right and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.  
The LORD loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.  
He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
he puts the deep into storehouses.  
Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the people of the world revere him.  
For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.  
But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.

**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 33* – read the entire chapter (22 verses) three verses a day. Write down thoughts, inspiration, meaning that comes to you in your readings.

Psalm 33 uses an introductory word in verse 12, “Blessed” Some translations use “Happy” instead. Either are apt translations from the original Hebrew. The two words, however, can carry different connotations with us today. Happy leaves the reader thinking – smiley, uplifted, joyful – jovial... which is not what the Psalmist is trying to convey.

Blessed *can* mean those things; but it carries a much deeper meaning. Israel is “blessed” above all other nations because the righteous God who created the world and all things seen and unseen has sovereign authority over the Israel people. (This is much different than, Israel is happy above all other nations...)

God has chosen Israel for a special relationship. Israel has become, by divine election, God’s inheritance. This inheritance of relationship is inalienable and cannot be taken away. This deep and meaningful relationship is a means of reaching other peoples.

Being “blessed” is a first step in urging the listener to trust in their God. Listening to God when he speaks, “*For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded and it stood firm.*” In God’s divine relationship Israel is held to a higher standard of Yahweh’s righteousness. This is necessary, for how can the peoples of the world learn from Israel if they are as the rest of the world? Much like being a Christian today. If we want non-Christians to know the love and acceptance of Christ – we must live our lives by a higher standard.

Prayer: We sing for joy; praise you and give thanks for all you are to us. Blessed is the nation whose God is Lord. *Amen.*