

**Follow the Shepherd  
and not the herd**

**May 8, 2022**

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist

Liturgy Reader: Scott Siekman

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring Prelude  
Gathering for Worship

*My Tribute*

**Call to Worship: (responsively)**

**L: Can you hear the voice of God?**

**P: We hear God calling us by name.**

**L: Are you troubled or distressed?**

**P: We come here to find a place to rest for a while.**

**L: Come and find a guide who knows these lands.**

**P: We come to praise our Shepherding God, whose pathways and doors lead to life.**

**Opening Prayer: Shepherding God, bring us into your fold. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Help us see the way we should go, the way we should live. Help us hear your voice calling our name. Enliven this time of worship, that we may find true life as we join with others: praising your name, celebrating your great goodness, and sharing your love for all people. *Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise:** (#483 Pilgrim People – back of bulletin)

*We Are God's People*

**St. James Retirement Recognition:** Sandy Beiersdorf & Henry Langenhahn Jr.

**St. James Young at Heart Mother's Day Presentation:**

**St. Mark's Young at Heart:**



**Prayer of Confession:**

Shepherding God, be with us in our need. Like sheep who have gone astray—we have not heeded your voice, calling us to follow the right paths, beckoning us to lie down and be restored; we have acted as if our salvation lies in busyness and control. We do not want to be sheep—dependent on a shepherd for everything.

We want to do it alone—to maintain our independence. Forgive us for rejecting your shepherding care and your love and guidance. Forgive us for our need to do it by ourselves, to be separate from the flock. Forgive us for doubting your presence in times of trouble. Forgive us our despair in the face of seemingly unrelenting evil and death. Lead us back to the path of life. *Amen.*

**Words of Assurance:**

**Jesus said, I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. In so confessing, we have returned to the shepherd, the guardian of our souls who welcomes us with open arms and a glad heart. Know that the shepherd of our lives never abandons us, is always calling our name, and unfailingly loves and forgives us. *Amen.***

**Hymn of Assurance:** (#466 The Hymnal)

*He Leadeth Me*

**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:**

1 Peter 2:21-25

**St. Mark's Choir Anthem:**

*When there's Love at Home*

**Message:**

[B THE 99] Returned to the Shepherd

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:**

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

*Savior, like a Shepherd lead us*

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

Generous, life-giving God, you sent Jesus that we might have life and have it abundantly. In response to this great gift, we now offer ourselves and our resources. May these gifts help us as a church to be your voice, calling all people to abundant life and to their true identities as your beloved. *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: (#174 The Hymnal)**

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

**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:**

We have been refreshed and restored. We have been called and guided. Let us go forth knowing who our true shepherd is, following his path, secure in the knowledge that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life. Go now to Love and Serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, all that you will be. *Amen.*

**Postlude**


*Postlude Con Spirito*

**1 Peter 2:21-25 ESV**

*For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

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

## We Are God's People

Bryan Jeffery Leech, alt., 1931-

Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897

Arr. by Fred Bock, 1939-

*Unison*

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord,  
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head,  
 4. We are a Tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place,

Born of the Spir - it, es - tab - lished by His Word; Our cor - ner -  
 For we have known it, the love of God out - poured; Now let us  
 Called to o - bey Christ, now ris - en from the dead; He wills us  
 Formed in great weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; We die a -

stone is Christ a - lone, And strong in Christ we stand: O let us  
 learn how to re - turn The gift of love once giv'n: O let us  
 be a fam - i - ly Di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us  
 lone, for on its own Each em - ber los - es fire: Yet joined in

live trans - par - ent - ly, And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.  
 share each joy and care, And live with a zeal that pleas - es Heav'n.  
 give our gifts to God, And so shall His work on earth be done.  
 one the flame burns on To give warmth and light, and to in - spire.