



**June 27, 2021**  
**St. James United Church of Christ**  
**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Organist: Ann Rodewald

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship-  
*Jesus*

*What a Friend We Have in*

**Call to Worship: (responsively)**

L: May the grace of Christ, our Savior,  
**P: And the Father's boundless love,**  
L: With the Holy Spirit's favor,  
**P: Rest upon us from above.**  
L: Thus may we abide in union  
**P: With each other and the Lord**  
L: And possess, in sweet communion,  
**P: Joys which earth cannot afford.**

**Opening Prayer (All together):**

Gracious, O Heavenly Creator, it is our privilege and joy to praise you. As we sing, let us make a joyful noise to you. As we pray, may our words and thoughts be pleasing to you. As we open your word may we trust in your unfailing promises. Your word holds true, it is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may see you more clearly today. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *Amen.*

**Praise God:**

*Sanctuary (insert)*

**Hymn of Life:**

*Just As I Am (page 214, Vs 1, 3, 5, 6)*

**Prayer of Confession:**

Hear, O Lord, and answer me; for as rich as I may think that I am, I confess that I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long. Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you in their time of desperation and need. Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. *Amen.*

**Words of Assurance:**

**Almighty God our heavenly father, you who have created all things, you who give us the breath of life, you who blessed us with your grace and who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on us; pardon and deliver us from all sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

**Affirming our Faith Together: The 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.*

**Song of Assurance:** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul (page 316)*

**Scripture Reading:** John 5:17-23  
**Message:** *I Believe in Jesus Christ, Our Lord* Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

### Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

#### 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 Lily of the Valley*

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

God of heaven and earth, we are blessed for the many diverse ways we can worship you. We can worship you through singing spiritual songs and hymns together. We can worship you through our prayers and praise. We can worship you as we do the work of our hands with all our hearts, as unto you. We worship you when we are your hands and feet to others in need. And we worship you through our giving of our tithes and offerings, with gladness, grace and adoration. *Amen.*

**A Sending Forth Song:** *Lord, Speak to Me (page 265)*

#### Benediction:

Feel the love of God growing within your heart. Feel the burden now lifted from your shoulders. Let your steps carry the lively spring of the Holy Spirit within as you go into God's world, planting seeds of love, mercy, joy, and peace in all that you say and do. Be at peace, go to love and serve our Lord. *Amen.*

**Postlude** *Joy After Worship*

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#### John 5:17-23

*But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*

*So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.*

Even when you don't see Him working, He's busy working on your behalf. Forever grateful for God's grace!

#### LOOKING FORWARD TO:

TONIGHT! St. James/St. Marks Youth Group Volleyball Game at Saron UCC at 6:30pm. Come & cheer on our youth!

Thurs, July 1<sup>st</sup> - St. Mark's Consistory Meeting, 6:30pm

Sun., July 4<sup>th</sup> St. Mark's - 9:00am Worship  
St. James - 10:30am Worship

Mon., Jul 5<sup>th</sup> - St. James Vision of Hope Meeting

#### THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:

Birthdays: June 27<sup>th</sup> - Glenn Spindler  
28<sup>th</sup> - Cheyenne Behnke  
30<sup>th</sup> - Allen Stolzmann  
July 1<sup>st</sup> - Ruth Ann Kolb  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Matthew Lutze

#### Anniversaries:

June 28<sup>th</sup> - Steven & Linda Rozmarynowski  
Jim & Patty Taylor

## 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:

The longest paragraph we read in the Apostles' Creed has to do with the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This is so, because Christology varied the most; was challenged the most; and had followers whose beliefs differed most widely from the church.

We are told Jesus Christ is the “Son of God”. Other variants read, “The Son of the Same” or “His Son.” Of importance is that Jesus, Son of God rules over this world and over all reality. Subsequently, the birth of “Mary the virgin” is not in the Creed to stress the virgin birth – although that is quite clearly confirmed – but rather to affirm the very fact that Jesus was born. He did not simply appear on earth. The reference to Pontius Pilate is not to put blame on the Roman government, but to date the event to insist on the fact that it was a historical, datable event.

Further “docetism” is denied by declaring that Jesus was “crucified... died, and rose again” And finally, affirming this same Jesus will return to judge. Docetism is defined as the doctrine that Christ’s body wasn’t human. It was either of celestial substance or a phantasm. Broadly speaking, it is taken as the belief that Jesus only *seemed* to be human, that his human form was all an illusion. [This is only one of many false teachings, or heresies the Apostles’ Creed sought to clarify. Ultimately however, the battle continued around the issue of authority. Who decided who was right and who was wrong?]

**Prayer:** At times Lord, doubt can creep in. We wonder what is really true especially when we hear conflicting “authorities” give contradictory testimony. Regardless, it is our faith and belief in you, Creator of all that is seen and unseen; Lord and Savior, that we trust in. Remove foolish thoughts from our heads and let us rest peacefully in the assurance of your mercy, your love, your grace and your might. *Amen.*

## NOTES:

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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