



Sunday, July 10, 2022
St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Ann Rodewald, Organist
Reader at St. Mark's: Scott Siekman

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

Just As I Am

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Welcome to the community of faith, the family of God!

P: We come as families, large and small in number, seeking God's love.

L: God's love is here for you.

P: Help us to understand how we are connected to God.

L: We abide in Christ Jesus, in love and compassion.

P: May our spirits be renewed and our connection to God be strengthened through our worship today.

Opening Prayer:

L: Let the whole earth praise the Lord! Let the mountains and hills proclaim God's handiwork! Let the seas roar and the waves crash in symphonies of praise! Let all creation sing God's new song of love!

P: Praise be to God who has created and is creating anew! Praise be to God who re-creates God's love in us each day!

L: Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. As we gather here this day, we hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples for his departure. He gave to them the words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: (#26 Hymnal)

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Some of us look at vines as tangled messes of wood and fiber, twisted, battered, hopelessly knotted. Others of us see vines as delightful reminders of the many ways in which we are connected and interwoven to the main trunk of the plant. Jesus proclaimed, "I am the true vine." The source of our life stems from Jesus. All that we do or say, the directions in which we go, all reflect our anchor in our true vine. But far too often we have failed "the vine"; we have chosen the gnarled and knotted existence of anger, alienation, and bitterness. We have twisted the words of caring into words of self-preservation and self-interest. O great vine grower God, prune this bitter direction from our lives. In your forgiving love, heal our tendency to strike out on our own, thinking that we have all the answers. Help us to exhibit new growth and strength of character, that we may faithfully serve you.

Words of Assurance:

The commandment that we have from Christ Jesus is that we love one another, treating each other as beloved brothers and sisters. Abide in God's eternal love. Let its power and joy penetrate your hearts and spirits, preparing you for new growth in the Spirit. Amen

Baptism:

Daniel Craig Schultz

Hymn of Assurance: *(Insert)*

Jesus Loves Me This I Know

Affirming Our Faith:

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.*

Scripture Reading:

John 15:1-11

Message:

The Family Tree

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:

You Are Mine

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Receive these thy gifts from our sincerest hearts. We give as graciously and generously as you have given to us. Use these in your infinite wisdom to bless others who are in need. *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: *(Insert)*

Happy the Home When God Is There

Benediction:

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. Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do: in all that you are: in all that you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Praise Him!

John 15:1-11 ESV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."