



July 11, 2021

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Organist: Ann Rodewald

Reader: Scott Siekman

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Near to the Heart of God

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

P: That evidence – that sign is in Jesus Christ, Son of God, whom God is sending.

L: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

P: So, we cry to the heavens in our distress.

L: Behold, our cries are heard!

P: God is responding in love and hope.

L: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

Opening Prayer (all together):

Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Mary who accepted your word in faith; Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' Name, we pray. *Amen.*

Praise God (sung response):

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Hymn of Life: (#108 Hymnal)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Prayer of Confession:

God did not say, "You shall not be tempted; you shall not be troubled; you shall not be distressed." God did say, "You shall not be overcome."

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led into the wilderness, where he was tempted.

Sheltering God, Guiding God, as you were present with Jesus in his wilderness experience, so you are present with us: you have urged us to trust you:

"Love me and call upon me, and I will answer you, I will be with you in trouble, and will honor you."

We have felt discouraged, and at times even abandoned and betrayed by you, O God, when all manner of things has not gone well with us. Amen.

Words of Assurance: (all together)

Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us! God is our clothing in which love enwraps us, holds us, and all encloses us because of God's tender love, so that God may never leave us. We are protected safely in love—in woe as in well—by the goodness of God. God urges us, *"Keep the word near you, even on your lips and in your heart... This word is your salvation."*

As we worship today, with the Word on our lips and in our hearts, experience the salvation of God for all manner of things in our lives. In the promise, presence, and power of God for all manner of things. *Amen.*

Affirming our Faith Together: The Apostles' Creed (all together)

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: (#176 Hymnal)

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

Message:

Born of the Virgin Mary

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:

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. Multiply our offerings to the benefit of your ministries in and out of the walls of this church and beyond. Amen.

A Sending Forth Song: (#480 Hymnal)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Benediction:

Place your trust in God, for God is with you. Listen carefully for God's loving whisper in this time~ the words will give you healing and hope. Go in peace and may God's peace always be with you. Go now to love and serve our Lord. *Amen.*

Postlude

Apostles' Creed Hymn

Website: www.stmstjucc.org email: 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

Matthew 1:18-25 ESV

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



LOOKING FORWARD TO:

TONIGHT! St. James/St. Marks Youth Group Volleyball vs Bethel/Immanuel, game at Immanuel UCC at 6:30pm. Come & cheer on our youth!

Thurs., July 15th St. James Consistory, 6:30pm
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Sun., July 18th St. Mark's - 9:00am Worship
St. James - 10:30am Worship

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:

Birthdays: July 11th - James Becker, Ryan Lutzke
12th - Linda Lutzke, Steven Schnelle
13th - Crissy Athorp, Pat Kleinhans, Michelle Mauk
14th - Gerald Thiel, Lindsay Summers
15th - James Schuette, Jan Stryck
16th - Anna Marie Bramstedt, Deanne Schultz, Tanya Wasmer
17th - Frederick Krause, Hudson Quast

Anniversaries:

July 11th - Steven & Crystal Schultz

13th - Gary Van Auken & Sandra Stark