



A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, July 17, 2022
St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Rev. Kim Henning, Guest Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist Lori Roelse, Reader

The genuine realist, if he is an unbeliever, will always find strength and ability to disbelieve in the miraculous, and if he is confronted with a miracle as an irrefutable fact, he would rather disbelieve his own senses that admit the fact. Faith does not....spring from the miracle, but the miracle from faith.

~ Fyodor Dostoevsky

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship: St. Mark's: *O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing*
St. James: *Praise and Exultation*

Welcome

CALL TO WORSHIP : (Colossians 1)

Sisters and brothers in Christ, put your trust in the Lord.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

In him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, Whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers,

All things have been created through him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

The church is a community that finds its hope and purpose in Jesus Christ.

He is the head of the body, the church.

**He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead
so that He may have first place in everything.**

**In him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him
God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in
heaven,**

By making peace through the blood of his cross.

We gather for this holy act of worship knowing that we will be transformed,
Changed, and made different by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once we were estranged,

But now we have been brought close to God;

Once we were hostile in mind,

But now we are being reconciled through our Lord's very death.

Glory be to God who lives and reigns now and forevermore. Amen.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH:

**We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ
and our God, and to Your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of
life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness
and sin. You judge people and nations by Your righteous will declared
through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You
have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death,
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church
of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues
and races.**

**You call us into Your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to
be Your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the Gospel to all the
world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat
at his table, to join Him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust You: forgiveness of sin and fullness of
grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in
trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in Your Realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto You. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Speak, O Lord, for your servant is listening.....

Open our hearts that we might receive your Word.

Like dry ground, we thirst for your life-giving Word.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our lives are barren apart from you.

The gods of this world do not satisfy the deepest yearnings within us.

You, you alone do we need for this life to be whole.

Please pray with me,

O God, we are bombarded with words. We hear politicians and their boastfulness. We hear commercials that say to us, “buy me” and “you need me.” We hear people of great fame who appear to have their lives well put-together. But we know the emptiness of these. We repent of those times, O God, when we have idolized power, when we have esteemed wealth, and when we have been lured by the pundits of this world. We are sinners. We have fallen short of your glory. Have mercy upon us, O God. Grant that a right spirit of truthfulness may enter us, and that we may seek those things born from above. We offer this prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

According to Peter, “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Friends in Christ--believe the good news of the Gospel: you are loved; you have been redeemed; you are God’s very own people. Praise God, now and forever. Amen.

RESPONSE:

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;*

*As I was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end, A-men*

PSALM 15:

The prescribed psalm for today is a liturgy for entrance to the temple. Two questions are asked at the beginning; and the answer to those questions is provided after. Let us pray.....

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;**

who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
**in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**
who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent?
Those who do these things shall never be moved.



YOUNG AT HEART:

“Whose Church is This?”

HYMN: (Hymnal, page 453)

Shepherd of Eager Youth

THE GOSPEL:

Luke 10:38-42

THE NEW TESTAMENT:

Colossians 1:15-28

SERMON:

“The Treasure We Have In Christ”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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).

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

St. Mark’s: *Meditation on “Beach Spring”*
St. James: *The Master Has Called Us*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

DOXOLOGY:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Please pray with me.....

Eternal praise we offer to you, our God:

For shining the light of your Son Jesus Christ into the darkness of our world.

For blessing us with hope that empowers us through despair;

For shouting a word into the wilderness of our lives, filling us with expectation;

For coming to us and visiting us this day and every day with your presence, an

For renewing us to be your hopeful people in Christ. Amen.

n needs all around. Grant that we may be living witnesses of your mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: (Hymnal, page 221)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

COMMISSION AND BLESSING:

POSTLUDE:

St. Mark's: *March in G*

St. James: *More Than Conquerors*



LIBERATOR
HOW JESUS FREES US FROM WHAT ENSLAVES US



Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:
St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Colossians 1:15-28

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

ou 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