



Sunday, July 3, 2022
St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Kathy Jurk Organist
Readers: Sandy Perronne, Deb La Duke

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Throughout the ages, disciples have said, "I will follow you wherever you go."

P: Lord, give us the freedom to follow you in the ways of love.

L: We come from busy homes, filled with little time to consider Christ in our lives.

P: Lord, give us the strength to follow you in the ways of peace.

L: In times of struggle, we look to God for help.

P: Lord, give us the opportunity to follow you in the ways of kindness.

L: Today, we celebrate the Holy Spirit, who shows us the joy of following God.

P: Lord, give us the patience to follow you in the ways of faith.

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, we come before you today: full of hope, full of desire, full of promise. Help us take up the mantle of faith you have laid before us, that we may use our own gifts of the Spirit to face the challenges before us. Help us face the turmoil within and around us, that we may face the future unafraid. Show us your way, your truth, and your life. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: (#461 Hymnal)

Savior Like a Shepherd

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Gracious Lord, you have blessed us with freedom ~ freedom to follow or to turn away; freedom to love or to hate ~ freedom to heal or to hurt. You ask only that we follow your ways, loving our neighbors as ourselves. In the midst of our turbulent lives, help us find teachers to show us the gifts you set within us. And help us claim these gifts today. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance:

Harvest the fruit of the Spirit, freely given by God, and share it freely with others. Know that you are loved and forgiven. Trust that you are treasured, now and always. *Amen.*

Hymn of Assurance: (#472 Hymnal)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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:

Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Message:

The Chains of Freedom

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:

America the Beautiful

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Receive our humble offerings, O Lord, for your work in the world. Bless those who give, those who send, and those who will receive these gifts. May our offering sow seeds of hope and bear the fruit of love wherever they are sown. *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: (#614 Worship & Rejoice- Insert) *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Benediction:

May the transforming love of God work in your lives, today and always. Go forth into the world with peace, love, and joy. Follow Christ wherever he leads you. 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

National Hymn

Galatians 5:1, 13-15 ESV

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.