



July 4, 2021  
St. MarksSt. James United Church of Christ  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Organist: Kathy Jurk  
Reader: Sandy Perronne/Deb LaDuke

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship

*God Shed His Grace*

**Call to Worship: (responsively) Psalm 100**

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**P: Worship the Lord with gladness.**

L: Know that the Lord is God. God made us and we are God's;

**P: God made us and we are his.**

L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

**P: Give thanks to him and bless his name.**

L: For the Lord is good;

**P: His steadfast love endures forever.**

**Opening Prayer (All together):**

Lord God Almighty – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; how great is it to know that we are not under bondage to sin; to know we are set free from old habits, idolatry, and falsehood. Not by anything we have done or said, but by your grace and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Fill us with your spirit this morning that we are made anew abiding in your grace now and always. *Amen.*

**Praise God:**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Hymn of Life:**

*For the Faithful Who Have Answered*

**Prayer of Confession:**

We are a people of good intentions who want to accept and keep Christ's invitation. And yet, what we want to do does not always find fulfillment. We do not always understand our own actions, our own words. We know what is right; we will ourselves to do right; and yet often we cannot. We delight in the law of God, who guides our innermost selves, but to often we serve the law of sin. Who will deliver us from this body of pain? Hear us and answer, Gracious God! *Amen.*

**Words of Assurance: (all together)**

**God's answer can be found in Paul's writing: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We are set free from the law of sin and death. Live, therefore, according to the Spirit and let us set our minds on the things of the Spirit. The Spirit is life and peace. The Spirit of God dwells within us. Believe and celebrate this joyous good news! *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:** *Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Scripture Reading:** Galatians 4:31-5:1 (ESV)  
**Message:** *Freedom---Freedom!* Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**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**

**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:** *Let There Be Peace On Earth*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)**  
**Accept the gifts we place before you now; gifts and tithes we are generously giving back to you in response to all you have blessed us with. Use what we offer to further the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ, within the walls of this church, throughout our community, and to the worldwide. May the peace of God reign in our lives, the love of God surround us, the Spirit of God empower us and the joy of God uphold us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

**A Sending Forth Song:** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

**Benediction ... Be at peace. Go now to love and serve our Lord. Amen.**

## Postlude

*Trumpet Recessional*

### Galatians 4:31-5:1 (ESV)

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO:

Mon., July 5<sup>th</sup> Vision of Hope Meeting, 6:30pm, St. James

Sun., July 11<sup>th</sup> St. James - 9am Worship  
St. Mark's - 10:30am Worship

### THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:

Birthdays: July 4<sup>th</sup> - Brandon Cyr  
Henry Langenhahn  
Cody Mueller  
6<sup>th</sup> - Heidi Belitz  
Laurie Heckmann  
Tom Kleinhans  
Deb LaDuke  
Wyatt Scharl  
7<sup>th</sup> - Rachel Stolzmann  
8<sup>th</sup> - Marissa Fitzgerald  
10<sup>th</sup> - Emily Binversie  
Jack Heckmann

### Anniversaries:

July 5<sup>th</sup>- Kevin & Sherry Jump  
6<sup>th</sup>- Richard & Mary Lou Sixel  
8<sup>th</sup> - Larry & Sandy Perronne  
9<sup>th</sup> - Bob & Tara Vandoske

## NOTES:

### 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:

Galatians 2:4; 5:13

2 Corinthians 3:17

1 Peter 2:16

On the Fourth of July, many people celebrate. They celebrate the freedom of the country. The freedoms they enjoy. The opportunities these freedoms create. However, it's not a stretch to say that not everyone enjoys these freedoms equally. Each of our laws, by-laws, rules and regulations are made by general consensus with many people involved along the way. Yet, because many people are involved along the way – all with the best of intentions but with each hand, head and heart carrying the touch of our sinful nature, the best interest of all the people is affected.

I believe the Constitution was and is created (as it says in the preamble) in order to perfect the union of the people, states, and country; to establish justice; to bring about a tranquility in our homes, communities and cities; and to help raise the level of overall care for the people. What follows the preamble describes how this is to come about. But, in the areas of carrying out the Constitution with the integrity of the intention with which it was made, we fall. What does that mean? We get back up and try again. We seek Christ's forgiveness, forgive ourselves and keep working. We do not give up. We do not give in. We do not quit. We keep on striving to make the United States a more perfect union.

And no matter how often we fall or fail, Christ never gives up on us. Thank God for that.

**Prayer:** Lord, every time I fall – help me back up. Every time I am ready to quit, to give in to the feeling of failure – give me courage and fortitude. When I am ready to succumb to fear – embolden me to overcome and remain faithful in you. *Amen.*

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Send an email to be added to our prayer chain.

Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

