



August 22, 2021
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Organist: Randy Sohn; Kathy Jurk

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship-

St. James: *There Is A Redeemer*

St. Mark's: *My Faith, It Is on a Oaken Staff*

L: Why are we looking up to heaven?

**P: Christ has come;
Christ has risen;
Christ will come again.**

L: Why are we looking ahead to the future?

**P: The Holy Spirit is among us now.
In our baptism, we have already died and risen with Christ.**

L: Why are we afraid of death and dying?

P: God's love casts out our fear.

L: Why are we afraid to follow Jesus?

**P: In Christ, we have the promise of new life now, eternal life to come.
In Christ, we join our hearts to worship God,
who has prepared for us to enter the reign of God.**

Opening Prayer (All together):

God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. *Amen!*

Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Hymn of Life: (#38 Hymnal) _____

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Prayer of Confession:

Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But we have not always done so.

Our faith will often take a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. Forgive us when we, like the disciples, are of little faith. You who have raised Christ from the dead, have promised to raise our spirits and bring us to new life. So, clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living. Help us to be open always to your word and your love. Challenge us to move in directions of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance: (All together)

Forgiveness and love have been poured out upon us, that we might offer the same to those around us. We are called to bring hope to the hopeless. We are called and blessed to be messengers of God's good news to all people. *Amen.*

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: (#480 Hymnal)**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Prayer of Illumination:

God of extravagant grace, may your Spirit refresh our hearts through the reading of the scriptures that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading:

Message: *He Ascended Into Heaven*

Acts 1:6-11; Luke 24:50-53

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:

St. James: *The Comforter Has Come*
St. Mark's: *Come, We That Love the Lord*

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Gracious God, you call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in your love and provision.

Give us courage to step out boldly, to plant our small seeds generously, and without fear. Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

A Sending Forth Song: (#373 Hymnal)

Christ for the World We Sing

Benediction:

Go to love and serve the Lord...

Postlude

St. James: *Triumphant Finale*
St. Mark's: *On This Glad Day*

Acts 1:6-11 ESV

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Luke 24:50-53 ESV

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

Wednesday, Aug. 25th – NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
Sunday, August 29th - 9:00am Worship at St. James
10:30am Worship at St. Mark's

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:

Birthdays:

Aug 23 – Gerty Free, Cidi Wippermann, Sara Wippermann
26 – Alicia Schueler, Abigail Wasmer
27 – Carter Clemens
28- Bradley Grunwald, Faith Grunwald

Anniversaries:

Aug. 22 – Larry & Denise Heling
Brett & Abbey Sheldon
Aug. 26 – Gerald & Jola Thiel
Aug. 28 – Michael & Michelle Scharl

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