



August 29, 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: *Rise Up and Serve the Lord*

St. Mark's: *Pass Me Not*

L: My way gets brighter, my load gets lighter,

P: Walking up the King's Highway

L: There's joy in knowing with Him I'm going,

P: Walking up the King's Highway.

L: It's a highway to heaven, none can walk up there but the pure in heart.

P: It's a highway to heaven, I am walking up the King's Highway.

L: Don't have to worry, don't have to hurry, Walking up the King's Highway.

P: Christ walks beside me, angels to guide me, Walking up the King's Highway.

L: If you're not walking, start while I'm talking, Walking up the King's Highway.

P: There'll be a blessing I'll be possessing, Walking up the King's Highway.

Opening Prayer (All together):

Lord, our God, where is there another God like you – a God of justice and unfailing love, who stands by every promise made to his people, generation after generation? There is no other. You alone are God.

And so we gather together to worship you: to give you thanks, to proclaim your greatness, to sing your praise, and to celebrate your faithful presence with us. We offer ourselves to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen!**

Doxology (#1 Hymnal. Vs 1)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn of Life: (#10 Hymnal)

O Worship the King

Prayer of Confession:

Beloved, how gracious you are to your people; You restore their souls time and time again. You forgive their distractions when they wander far from you; you give them new life. Yes, you bless them and raise up new hope; you awaken their hearts to love.

Restore us again, O Spirit of Truth; burn us with the refining Fire of Love! We cannot live separated from you; cast out the demons of fear, doubt, and illusion. Revive us again, we pray; may your people rejoice in you! Have compassion on your people, O Holy One, and grant us your forgiveness.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will embrace one another. Wisdom will spring up from the ground and truth will look down from the sky. You will guide our footsteps upon the path of peace as we recognize with open hearts that you are our peace.

Words of Assurance: (All together)

Most gracious and loving God, we have tasted your goodness in days gone by and it has satisfied us, but now with this new day we turn to you again for the bread of life that you have prepared for us and the wine of the Spirit that you pour out for your people.

Help us Lord, to fill us with those things that tend to make us all that you want us to be. We need your presence Lord. We need your anointing. Touch us and make us whole. We this through Christ Jesus your Son. Amen.

Hymn of Assurance: (#5 Binder)

Blessed Assurance

Prayer of Illumination:

Speak to us O Lord, through your Word today, that we may hear you calling us out of the boat places in our lives and into new places you have promised to show us. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading:**Message:***Jesus Walks On Water***Matthew 14:22-33**

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: *I Love Thee, My Lord*St. Mark's: *Beside Still Waters*~ *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. Bless our offerings and tithes this morning to further your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Hymn of Sending: (#72 Hymnal)*Now Thank We All Our God***Benediction:**

Go now, proclaiming to all how much Jesus has done for you. Be as one with each other in Christ. Wait for the Lord, and be ready to hear God's voice, even in the sounds of sheer silence. And may the Holy Spirit give you light and truth to sustain you day and night. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.

PostludeSt. James: *Trumpet Recessional*St. Mark's: *Fantasia on "Duke Street"*

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 14:22-33 ESV

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost! and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**LOOKING FORWARD TO:***Sunday, September 5th - 9:00am Worship at St. Mark's**10:30am Worship at St. James***THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:***Birthdays: Aug. 30th - Kendra Schmitz, Kathy Stolzmann, Emmett Vogel**31st - Kevin Jump**No anniversaries this week*

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:

Matt 5:1-7:29; 17:1-8 Matt 8:23-27, 15:27 Job 9:8

There is an old-time hymn that testifies, “Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying “Christian, follow me.””

In the reading from Matthew today, Jesus calls to his disciples in the midst of a wild and restless sea. But he's not beckoning them away from the storm. Instead, his voice calls them *into* the tumult. Jesus compelled them to *get into the boat* and to leave him alone with the crowds.

He certainly could have had the disciples help him with the crowds (as he has in the past). This is a large crowd of people. There are 5000 men and probably twice as many women and children. Only after the great miracle of the feeding of 5000 does Jesus send everyone away: The crowds *and* the disciples.

Jesus stays on the mountain alone, to have some alone time with God. We all need that, don't we? To get away from the hustle and bustle of the people – to find a place that doesn't carry the constant droning of voices, rather the peaceful silence of nature.

And when he is done praying (about 3:00am) he heads out to sea – walking on water! The disciples who have been rowing their hearts out, but not making headway because of the storm, see him and mistake him for a ghost! It's hard to blame them for initially mistaking the figure of Jesus for a specter of death. After all, it is they who have rowed into the middle of evil's realm, and the waves are indeed attacking them. Yet, Jesus reveals himself saying, it is I, Jesus. Don't be afraid. We need that in our lives. To know when we are afraid, Jesus is with us.

Prayer: Lord, be with us at all times and in all places. *Amen.*

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