



September 12, 2021
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Building Fund Sunday

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Organist: Ann Rodewald

Reader: Scott Siekman

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Gentleness

Spirit, Spirit of

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: We will sing to the Lord as long as we live.

P: We will sing to God while we have being.

L: God sends forth the Spirit, and all is made new.

P: May the glory of the Lord endure for ever!

Opening Prayer (All together):

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! May our hearts be laid bare before you; and may we be filled with your Spirit to the betterment of our lives in all ways. For Christ is our savior and shepherd, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. **Amen!**

Doxology: (#1 Hymnal, v. 1)
Hymn of Life: (#190 Hymnal)

Holy, Holy, Holy
O Spirit of the Living God

Prayer of Confession:

O Savior God, look upon your church in its struggle upon the earth. Have mercy on its weakness, bring to an end its unhappy divisions, and scatter its fears. Look also upon the ministry of your church. Increase its courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to all people, even to the ends of the earth. Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior.

Words of Assurance [Psalm 103]: (All together)

The Lord our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor does God repay us according to our vices or sinful actions. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's love toward his children ~ those created in his image; as far as the east is from the west, this far, he removes our sins and transgressions that would be barriers in our relationship with him us. We cannot be whom we are intended to be, without this grace, mercy and forgiveness. **Amen.**

Hymn of Assurance: (#191 Hymnal)

Breathe on Me Breath of God

Prayer of Illumination:

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word – the Good News – and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading:

John 14:18-20, 25-26; 16:1-7

Message:

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

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:

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving [Mark 8:27-38]: (all together)

Father, you challenge us to deny ourselves in order to follow you. We are not used to denying ourselves very often. The culture we live in encourages instant gratification. Self-care is the key to contentment. Pay ourselves first is the financial tome. Yet, you call us to give in return for life, to deny ourselves to follow you, to set our minds on divine things rather than human things. Help us in this offertory moment to focus on you as we sacrificially give our tithes and offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: (#46 Binder)

Take Time to be Holy

Benediction:

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day may, through your grace, be so grafted within our hearts that they may bring forth in us the fruits of the Spirit, to the honor and praise of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Go now to love and serve our Lord in all that you are, all that you do, all that you say and all you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude

Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

John 14:18-20, 25-26; 16:1-7 ESV

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

Tues., Sept. 14th – St. James Adult Choir Practice, 6:30pm

Sun., Sept. 19th St. Mark's - 9:00am Worship
(Sunday School will begin Sept. 26th at St. Mark's)

St. James – 9:15-10:15 First day of Sunday School!
10:30am Worship

*Sunday School Teacher Installation/Blessing at both churches

*Bible Presentation at St. James

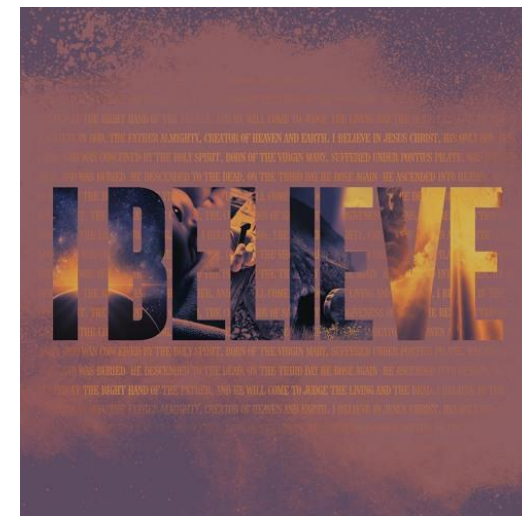
THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:

Birthdays:

Sept. 12th – Dawson Luckow, Douglas Luckow, Mason Scharl, Randy Sohn
15th – Alexa Rae Dexter
17th – Katherine Kleinhans
19th – Chase Heling

Anniversaries:

Sept. 15th - Karl & Amy Christianson
18th – Brian & Wendy Henschel



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

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:

Psalm 51 John 14 John 16

Wouldn't it be a tragic situation for all of us if we were limited to what we have said so far in the Creed? What if that's all there is? Sad indeed, for we are left with Jesus having risen and ascended. His words of absence are this: *He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, he will come again to judge the living (quick) and the dead.*

We are always saddened when a loved one leaves us. No matter how much we believe we will see them again, we hate to see them go, to have to live without them.

Imagine the feelings of the disciples, having not only heard the teaching and witnessed the deeds of Jesus, but even having seen him alive after his death, now seeing their master, lord, and friend leaving once more. I find the question the two men, dressed in white who stood by the disciples (Acts 1:10) ask of the disciples interesting to say the least.

Jesus has ascended. The disciples are looking up where Jesus was taken. They look with intensity. And two men (angels of God?) dressed in white stood beside them. *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky?"* Really? Isn't that what you would be doing? I know I would. I'm looking up toward the direction my beloved Lord was taken.

And yet (thankfully and graciously) the Creed continues with affirming that we (humanity) are not left abandoned, nor will we have to wait alone. For the Holy Spirit will be with us! Thanks be to God.

Prayer: O come Holy Spirit. Come fill me, make me, mould me into whom you would have me be, for you. *Amen.*

NOTES: