

Fearless

Deuteronomy 31.6

Sunday, September 18, 2022
St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist Lori Roelse, Reader at St. Mark's

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

St. James: *Blessed Be the Name*

Call to Worship: *(we call ourselves into God's presence)*

L: God has called us to gather together as beloved children.

P: **We come ready to share our authentic selves, our hearts, with God and one another.**

L: Wherever we are in our faith journey, God meets us right where we are, calling us out from isolation and fear into sacred community.

P: **We come to humbly praise and worship the One who chose vulnerability for the sake of perfect love.**

Unison Prayer: *(together)*

God of all peoples, may we be your people in all our thoughts and actions. We are your wayward children, returning to find rest and renewal – rebuilding our faith and our lives. We are disciples of Christ, eager for new insights and firm direction. Fill us now with the warmth of your presence that we may find new joy in your service. Amen.

**Sunday School Teacher Installation
Young at Heart**



Hymn of Praise: *(#397 Hymnal)*

O Holy City, Seen of John

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, in the midst of difficult and challenging times, you remain Lord of all creation. We acknowledge how often we choose to depend upon our resources rather than depend upon you. Through the Holy Spirit, you send us courage, yet our fears continue to hold us. Through the Holy Spirit, you send us comfort, yet our unease still controls us. Through the Holy Spirit, you send us truth, yet our own wisdom still guides us. Forgive us and free us from our sin; grow our trust and dependence upon you. Strengthen, encourage, and teach us. We pray through Jesus Christ.

Words of Assurance:

Lord, your love is remarkable. Despite our ongoing sin, you have graciously pursued us, forgiven us, and saved us. You forgive our paralyzed in fear response; you accept our words of intimate sharing with Christ. Now, stir your love and compassion within our hearts. Give us courage to share the story of your grace with those who don't yet know Jesus. It's in his name that we pray. Amen.

Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 31:6

Message:

Courage

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response: (*on bulletin back*)

Be Strong in the Lord

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. Mark's: *Be Thou My Vision*

St. James: *Peace in God's Good Time*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of perfect love, we ask that you receive these gifts of tithes and offering as a sign of our knees bending before you, of our tongues confessing that you are God. Pour out your blessings upon these gifts that they might serve others in humble love that glorifies your holy name. *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: (#253 Hymnal)

Take My Life and Let It Be

Benediction:

As we have asked for and prayed for courage, let us now go out with courage. Courage to face our fears; courage to change what we need to and wisdom to know what needs changing. Courage to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others in need... *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Mark's: *Symphonic Postlude*

St. James: *Honor and Glory, Power and Salvation*

Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Be Strong in the Lord

The musical score is written in G major, 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

System 1: Chords: G, F#, F, C/E, G/D. Lyrics: 1 Be strong in the Lord, and be of good cour-age; your might-y De- 2 So put on the ar-mor the Lord has pro-vid-ed, and place your de- 3 Be strong in the Lord, and be of good cour-age; your might-y Com-

System 2: Chords: D7, C/D, D7, G, Gsus2, G, D7sus, D7, G, D/F#, G/F. Lyrics: fend-er is al-ways the same. Mount up with wings, as the ea-gle as- fense in his un-fail-ing care. Trust him for he will be with you in mand-er will van-quish the foe. Fear not the bat-tle for the vic-tory is

System 3: Chords: C/E, G/D, D7, C/D, D7, G, C/G, G, G/B, C. Section: *Refrain*. Lyrics: cend-ing; vic-tory is sure when you call on his name. bat-tle, light-ing your path to a-void ev-ery snare. Be strong, be al-ways his; he will pro-tect you where-ev-er you go.

System 4: Chords: D/C, Bm, Em, Am, Am7, D7, C/D, D7, G, Dm7, F, G. Lyrics: strong, be strong in the Lord, and be of good cour-age for he is your guide. Be

System 5: Chords: C, D/C, Bm, Em, Am, Am7, D7, C/D, D7, G. Lyrics: strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord, and re-joice for the vic-tory is yours.

WORDS: Linda Lee Johnson (1947-)
 MUSIC: Tom Fettke (1941-)

Words and Music © 1979 Hope Publishing Company

STRENGTH
 11.11.11.10.