



September 19, 2021
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Organist: Randy Sohn
Reader: Lori Roelse at St. Mark's

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Weave Us Together

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: How awesome God's light is!

P: It pours rays of comfort and hope onto this dark world!

L: Come, dance and rejoice in the light!

P: Lord, let your light flood into our hearts and spirits!

L: Come, let us celebrate!

P: Let us bring our praise to God!

Opening Prayer (All together):

Majestic God, help us to feel and see your presence in our lives. Enable us to listen clearly to your words of hope and comfort. Encourage us to go into your world serving others and bringing your message of mercy and healing. Open our hearts to that love that we may grow in our faith and be strengthened in our witness to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen!*

Doxology:

*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: (#322 Hymnal)

The Church's One Foundation

Prayer of Confession:

Giver of all that is good, we come before you today wanting to say thank you for all you have done for us, in us and through us. But, when it gets right down to it no words we utter, no response we give, no acts of mercy and grace will ever sufficiently say to you what we try to express. We will not mislead ourselves into thinking otherwise. We are not up to the task of honoring you sufficiently. This is why you have told us, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*" Let us boast in our weakness before the Lord.

Words of Assurance: (All together)

**It is not money, but our generosity with it;
it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves;
it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift,
which transforms us into God's children.**

It is more than just how we think.

**In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits
are transfigured and made new. Thanks be to God. *Amen.***

Hymn of Assurance: (#236 Hymnal)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Sunday School Teacher Installation and Blessing

Prayer of Illumination:

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading:

Message:

I Believe in the Church

Matthew 16:13-20

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:

There's a Quiet Understanding

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

We thank you for all you have blessed us with. We have known enlightenment and your promise fulfilled through your gracious and generous acts of compassion. Help us to bring words of healing and hope to all we meet. Accept and bless these wonderful gifts that they may be used to serve you by serving others in need. Amen.

Hymn of Sending: (#476 Hymnal)

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

Benediction:

Beloved of the Lord, go forth in peace to joyfully love and serve our God. Share not only a message of hope, but your very blessings with others in need. Go in peace, now and always. *Amen.*

Postlude

In Christ There Is No East or West

Matthew 16:13-20 ESV

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

2021 – 2022 Sunday School Teacher Installation and Blessing

Consistory:

David Call

Louise Jetzer

Jacob Grunwald

Glenn Grunwald

Julie Herrmann

Judy Steinbeck

Lori Roelse (Consistory President): Teachers are called to serve the church in a variety of roles. This morning St. Mark's United Church of Christ affirms with deep appreciation the outstanding, faithful, and dedicated commitment to the task of teaching. As we do so, we understand that today's teachers stand upon the shoulders of those who came before. And the good works of these teachers will be building blocks for those yet to come.

Tara Vandoske; Anna Marie Bramstedt; Michelle Scharl; Brenda Schultz

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz:

Gentle and Loving God, through the ministry of teaching we learn about you, your creation of humanity, your trust in us to be your people, and we grow deeper in our understanding of you and our love of you and one another.

To the Sunday School Teachers:

Will you teach your students with gentleness, grace, love and compassion?
(We will)

Will you undertake your responsibilities as a teacher with integrity striving always to pass on to each child the teachings of Jesus Christ? **(We will)**

Will you pray for and nurture each child in their journey of Christian Formation: Church, Bible, God – Christ and Spirit, and Community? **(We will)**

To the Congregation:

Will you pray for these teachers, their classes and students – encouraging them, supporting them, assisting them without complaint or hesitation knowing fully the awesome responsibility each has in the teaching of our children. **(We will)**

I hereby install and bless you as the 2021-2022 Sunday School teachers for St. Mark's United Church of Christ, by the authority as Pastor of St. Mark's and with the support of the Consistory board and with the blessing of our Lord.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

2021 – 2022 Sunday School Teacher Installation and Blessing

Consistory: David Lorfeld, Jason Riesterer, Tammy Serketich,
Debra La Duke, Jamey Binversie, Wendy Henschel

Clarence Belitz (Consistory President): Teachers are called to serve the church in a variety of roles. This morning St. James United Church of Christ affirms with deep appreciation the outstanding, faithful, and dedicated commitment to the task of teaching. As we do so, we understand that today's teachers stand upon the shoulders of those who came before. And the good works of these teachers will be building blocks for those yet to come.

Sandy Biersdorf, Henry Langenhan, Amanda Russart, Scott Henschel

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz:

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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:

1 Peter 2:10 Galatians 6:2, 10 Matthew 9:35-38

What gave the Creed its Trinitarian structure was its early use in connection with baptism and the early scriptural reference from Jesus to baptize, “*in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*” And as we move on to the theme of the church, it is notable that both in Greek and in Latin there is only one word, which we translate sometimes as “holy” and sometimes as “saint”. When we look at the creed in either of these two ancient languages in which it originally existed, we see the same word repeated: *Holy Spirit, holy church, communion of the holy.* The holiness of the last two, as all holiness, is derived from the Holy Spirit.¹

Some Creeds use the wording, “the holy catholic Church” and others “The holy christian Church” “the holy catholic and apostolic church.” And of course the one we are familiar with, “the one holy universal Christian church.”

The word ‘catholic’ means “according to the whole,” so that what makes a church catholic is not its presence everywhere, but that people from everywhere are a part of it and contribute to it.

The word ‘christian’ means followers of Christ – disciples of Christ. Holy catholic and apostolic combine both the “according to the whole and followers of Christ” as does the “one holy universal Christian Church”

Most important to remember is that the church is filled with a communion of saints – previous followers of Christ. We’ll address that further next week.

Prayer: Make me a follower of Christ intent on building up the Holy Church.
Amen.

¹ Gonzalez. *The Apostles’ Creed for Today.* 2007. P. 76



This week's celebrations:

Birthdays: Sept. 19th - Chase Heling

20th - Ryan Athorp, Alyssa Hess, Rachael Krause,
Sherry Jump, Abbey Sheldon

22nd - Ruby Jump, Betty Kellner, Austin Riesterer,
Payton Scharl

24th - Claire Clemens, Jon Luckow,
Michelle Luckow, Geraldine Scheffler

Anniversaries: 21st - Richard & Alyssa Hess

LOOKING AHEAD.....NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

St. James Worship Service begins at 9:00,
Sunday School - 10:00 - 11:00

NO Services at St. Mark's due to the heavy traffic expected due to the Ryder Cup.

Everyone is encouraged to attend Worship Services at St. James.

St. Mark's Sunday School classes will begin the following week, October 3rd, at 9:00am

ST. JAMES CHOIR REHEARSAL - 6:30pm, Tuesday, Sept. 21st

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE - Monday, September 27th

ADOPT A HIGHWAY (ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP) has been set for Saturday, October 2 at 8 am. We will meet at the St. James shed. Anyone may participate, but if you are younger than 11 you will need parental supervision. A rain date is set for Sunday, October 3 after church and before the Packer game. We are designated to pick up the area from the first part of CTH XX to CTH X. Any questions please feel free to contact Michelle Mauk at 920-980-348

STUDY GROUPS - Pastor Patrick is looking to start two study groups early October. One would be working to finish the *Study of Luke* - that was discontinued last year due to Covid concerns.

The other study group is called "*Get Acquainted With Your Bible*" book. This group is open to all ages. This is a great place to start if you are not very familiar with the Bible: the two testaments; the various books, letters and characters.

For the two study groups noted, we will need to order books for the class, so please let Pastor Patrick or Karen Mansker, our office administrator, that you plan on attending. The classes will be held at St. Mark's UCC.

Email: schultzpw@gmail.com or the church office stmstjoffice@gmail.com or call 920-693-8361

REMINDERS:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, World Wide Communion & Neighbors in Need Special Offering at both churches

Oct. 10th - CROP Walk

Oct. 17th - Mission Fest at St. James

Note from Karen in the office.....

Be sure to check both your 'Promotions' and 'Spam' folders on your email account several times a week. Many times emails from the church office end up there.

Website: www.stmstjucc.org email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com
phone: 920.693.8361

Send an email to be added to our prayer team.

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