



September 5, 2021
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Organist: Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn
Readers: Bruce Mansker/Deb LaDuke

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
St. James: *Our Refuge and Strength*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

P: Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

L: Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

P: Lord, help us to work for you.

L: Lord, make us ready to serve.

P: Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love.

Opening Prayer (All together):

Mighty God, Creator of us all, it is you who guide and strengthen us. With heartfelt gratitude, we praise you this day for your never-ending love and protection. Enrich our lives with the beauty of all your creation. Ignite us in fellowship with sisters and brothers close to home as well as those far away. Empower us to know your will and your ways. Let us follow you, realizing that only in discipleship to you are we complete. Make us whole. We ask this in the name of the one who gave his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen!*

Doxology:

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Hymn of Life:

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Prayer of Confession:

Patient Lord, you know us so well. We are fascinated by healing and wondered by extravagance; we can talk all day about the miracles, but we do not understand the *compassion* of Christ. We often say, "Just heal us; just make me rich; just make things go better at work; just fix this mess I created" or other such deals and then we promise our faithfulness and witness. In this, we are confused or just plain obstinate in understanding that our hearts are in the wrong. Please forgive us, Lord, when our greed, and fear, and thirst for power or control get in the way of understanding. Help us to know the *transformational power of your love*. Get us ready to be faithful witnesses to you in all that we say and do. It is in Jesus' name we pray, for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our church and church leaders.

Words of Assurance: (All together)

By God's creation we are made in his image. With great capacity to love, show compassion, mercy, and forgiveness. By Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, we are healed and given new life. By the blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit we are renewed and shown the way. Lord, touch us and make us whole. We ask this through Christ Jesus your Son. Amen.

Hymn of Assurance:

You Are My All in All

Prayer of Illumination:

Open our ears and our hearts that we may hear you speak to us, O Lord, through the reading of Scripture and the sharing of your Word, that we may hear you calling us into the light and the glory of having you first in our lives in all ways. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading:

Message:

He Shall Come Again

John 14:1-7

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. Mark's: *A Song From The Hills*
St. James: *I Shall Not Want*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

God of all good gifts, you pour out blessings, each and every day, like the water which comes from a natural spring. Knowing we are made in your image, we pray you will receive these tithes, gifts and offerings, multiply them for good, and put them to use. Accept our desire to honor you with what we've given and help us celebrate the ways this offering will become a blessing for others. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Benediction:

Feel the power of Christ's healing love restoring you. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, offering help and hope to others. And may the peace of God always be with you. *Amen.*

Postlude

St. Mark's: *A Song For The King Of Kings*
St. James: *O Worship the King*

John 14:1-7 ESV

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- *ST JAMES CONSISTORY - 6:30pm Wed., Sept. 8th*
- *ST MARK'S CONSISTORY - 6:30pm, Thurs., Sept. 9th*

- **Sunday, Sept. 13th -**

BUILDING FUND SUNDAY AT BOTH CHURCHES

Worship at St. James, 9:00am

Worship at St. Mark's, 10:30am

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:

BIRTHDAYS:

(last week) Sept. 1st - Alyssa Grotegut, Clarence Belitz, Brett Spindler

2nd - Elreta Quast

(this week) 5th - Thad Athorp

6th - Jamey Binversie, David Call, Cindy Sohn

9th - Colton Marcoe, Richard Sixel, Jr, Parker Sprenger

10th - Cole Binversie, Tammy Serketich

11th - Barb Pragalz Mike Spindler

ANNIVERSARIES:

(last week) Sept. 3rd - Tom & Nancy Nye

(this week) 5th - Al & Judy Wippermann

6th - Tim & Noel Wippermann

7th - Wayne & Ann Grunwald

8th - Dale & Christine Krause

10th - Scott & Tammy Dexter



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

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 98:8-9 Psalm 51 (note: Vs 2, 7, 10) Romans 10:1-15

The second coming of Christ, expressed so many times throughout scripture, is a turning point for all creation. Christ will usher in peace, healing, forgiveness and salvation along with judgement.

For many it is a pleasing thought to think that when Jesus comes it means salvation for all. But it's less pleasing to think that judgement will also be taking place. I mean, I'm all for saving! But I'm not sure I want to be judged. After all, I know what a questionable character I've been in the past! Is that going to impact Christ's decision on whether I am part of the final call?

Truth is we cannot have salvation without judgement. Judgement is an integral part of the work of salvation. If judgement is not a part of salvation, then what is it we are being saved from? Are we being saved from wounds, illness, age, persecution...? Yes, but primarily we are being saved from ourselves and our sinful natures. This requires a system of justice in which our sins are reviewed and then judged upon by Christ. Let me be clear – this is not a "I'm trying to scare you straight" type message. It is merely the truth revealed to us in scripture and the gospel story.

What we know of Christ is that he is merciful, loving and filled with grace. He is forgiving (think of the crucified thief/murderer next to him on the cross). He is understanding of all we live through on a daily basis (he lived these days with us). With head held high and with joy, we confess that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead. We don't want to mess with that understanding. But we fearlessly place our trust in the grace of Jesus

Prayer: Lord, deepen our faith and trust in you. For the sake of our souls and the life we live. *Amen.*

NOTES: