



Join us in this sermon series called Highways and Byways. As we ready ourselves for summer travel & vacation trips, I want to provide some reminders and guidelines to help deepen our faith. Whether you enjoy "stay-cations" or vacations, travel and trips, or staying home Christ remains at the center of our lives. Let his Word guide us on our way.

Highways  
Byways  
Guardrails  
Detours &  
Signs

**Sunday, April 16, 2023**

**St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist

Lori Roelse, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*

St. James: *Way of the Lord*

### **Call to Worship:**

Protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge;

**Let us say to God, "You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you."**

Today, we come to worship God in truth and turn away from worshiping the idols all around us.

**God delights in our sincere worship, but sorrow visits those who give their worship to idols.**

We bless the Lord who gives counsel, who instructs our hearts in the secret of the night.

**We keep the Lord always before us so that we shall not be moved from God's ways.**

Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest secure,

**Because God keeps us from destruction in this life and the next.**

God shows us the path of life,

**And in God's presence is the fullness of joy forevermore.**

And so, we say to God,

**"You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you."**

### **Prayer:**

**Good and gracious God,**

**Spring once again regales us in bloom; the songs of returning birds are music to our ears and hearts; and soon the fields will be planted. We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son.**

**The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality. For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.**

**We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope. We pray in his precious name, *Amen*.**

### **Doxology:**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;***

***Praise Him above ye, heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

***Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise:**  
St. Mark's: (#291)  
St. James: (#164)

*Alleluia, Give Thanks  
In the Cross of Christ I Glory*



**Young at Heart:**

**Prayer of Confession:**

Risen Lord Jesus,  
help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders  
our awareness of your presence with us.  
Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence,  
so that, like the disciples who first encountered the Resurrected Christ,  
we too might hasten to share this great good news with others.

**Words of Assurance:** *(based on 1 Peter 1:18, 23; John 3:17-18)*

**We know that we were ransomed from futile ways  
...with the precious blood of Christ...  
and have been born anew through the living and enduring word of God.  
In this we recognize God's great love for the world  
revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus...  
who came into the world not to condemn it but to save it. Those who believe  
in him are not condemned. Thanks be to God! *Amen.***

**Hymn:**

St. Mark's: (#312)  
St. James: (#299)

*Christ Is Alive! (vs 1, 3, 5)  
Lead On O King Eternal*

**Scripture Reading:**

Luke 14:23 ESV

*And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways  
and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may  
be filled.'*

**Message:**

*Highways and Byways*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Hymn of Response:**

St. Mark's: (#443)  
St. James: (#271)

*Trust and Obey  
O Jesus, I Have Promised*

**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](http://stmstjucc.org)).

**Offertory Music:**

St. Mark's: *Look Down On Us*  
St. James: *Peace in My Soul*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**From God and Through God and To God are all things. We can give nothing unless we have first received it. We can accomplish nothing except by God's grace. We contribute to no good cause apart from God's purposes. We give thanks for the privilege of giving. May these gifts be used to further your ministries within these church walls, to the community and beyond. Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending:**

St. Mark's: (#451)

St. James: (#467)

*Be Still, My Soul*  
*I Love to Tell the Story*

**Benediction:**

May you go forth carrying the joy that is yours as a child of God and an heir to resurrection life through Jesus Christ. May that joy fill you up and fuel your journey as we continue down the highway of life, asking in the wake of the resurrection, "What now?" *Amen.*

**Postlude:**

St. Mark's: *To The Glory Of God*  
St. James: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*



Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:  
St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

**COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!**

**St. James UCC**

**1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.**  
**2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.**

**\*\*Sunday School 9-10am at both churches\*\***

**St. Mark's UCC**

**1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.**  
**2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.**

**WELCOME!**

***To the parents of young children:***

***Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.***

- ❖ *Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.*
- ❖ *Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.*
- ❖ *Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.*
- ❖ *If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."*



**Staying Close,  
Staying Connected**

**Our Church Celebrations!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:**

*April 16<sup>th</sup> – Jerry Jetzer, Dorothy Mueller*

*17<sup>th</sup> – Brenda Schultz*

*18<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Kaestner*

*19<sup>th</sup> – Julianne Luebke, Terri Schmitz*

*22<sup>nd</sup> – Ann Grunwald*

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

*April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dick & Karen Binversie*

*Allen & Sandra Kracht-Jones*

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**TONIGHT – HS YOUTH GROUP MEETING** at St. James, 5:30pm

**ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE** - Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** – Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's

**ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE** – Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

**THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP** – will begin on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> with two sessions to choose from, 10:00am or 5:00pm. Let Pastor know if you're interested in attending by contacting the church office: 920.693.8361 or [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)  
Also let him know if you're going to purchase a Season 3 Study Guide on your own, or if we should order one for you.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TUESDAY, APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>**

# 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:** Deut. 20:5-7; Lev. 21:17-23; 1Cor. 1:26-31

In this parable I believe that the one who has made the invitation and inviting to the supper is none other than God. And the reference is to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And these are some of the excuses that people give for not coming to Jesus Christ.

The first man's excuse was sort of a commercial excuse: "I bought a house and I need to go take a look at it." Now who in their right mind, I ask, would buy a house without looking at it? He was too busy in commerce.

The second man is busy in his labors. Too busy working and it takes precedence over the kingdom. "I bought five yoke and I need to prove them." In other words, he needs to test them – to make sure this has been a good buy. But again, I say what man would buy five yoke of oxen without *first* testing them? Which of you would buy a car without driving it around the block?

Then the third said that he had just married a wife and couldn't come. Why didn't he bring along his wife?

You notice that they all began to make excuses. There is a difference between excuses and reasons. Sometimes you can make an excuse when you don't have any real reason for it. But I would warn you as Benjamin Franklin said, "The man who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else."

They began to make excuses for different reasons, so the lord said to go out into the highways and bring in the poor, the maimed and the halt. Remember to Jesus, He fulfilled the prophecy to the poor, the gospel is being preached. And still there was room, so he was to go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in, and the gospel was being preached compelling all to come into the kingdom of God.

**Notes:**