



Sunday, August 27, 2023
St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist Jacob Grunwald, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Are Ye Able?

Call to Worship: (Ruth C. Duck)

L: A great teacher once said, "When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids us come and die" (*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*). We are the people who have responded to this call.

LEFT SIDE: Through Christ, we want to die to the fears that keep us from loving.

RIGHT SIDE: Through Christ, we want to die to the stubbornness that keeps us from sharing our gifts.

LEFT SIDE: Through Christ, we want to die to seeking our own success and salvation while disregarding the good of all others.

RIGHT SIDE: Through Christ, we want to die to all temptation leading us to sin.

LEFT SIDE: This is God's promise, that if we die with Christ, we will also rise with Christ.

ALL: God be praised for the glorious promise of new life in Christ. Alleluia!

Prayer:

Led and sustained by your Spirit, your Church has continued to this day. Anoint us with that same Spirit that we may be your witnesses, calling the nations of the world to run to you, the Holy One of Israel. We know that those who call upon your name rejoice. Help us rejoice anew as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn:

St. James (#272)
St. Mark's (#504)

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

[Please Be Seated]



Young at Heart:

St. Mark's: Welcoming of Our New Members:

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” (1Cor 12:12)

There is always a call for celebration when our church receives new members. We as a church family welcome all. And especially today, with great praise and thanksgiving we welcome Dave and Ann Adams, and Dianne Kaczmariski into our church family at St. Mark's UCC.

We give thanks to God for his grace and guidance and blessing ~ a God who has created and is creating; a God who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new; a God who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit; a God who is still speaking.

Rev. Dr. Schultz:

Dave, Ann and Dianne, do you repent of your sins and denounce wickedness, evil, and injustice in our communities and this world? **I Do.**

Do you accept the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of Jesus Christ to become the one God has made you to be? **I Do.**

Do you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, put your trust in him and promise to learn more about him, follow him, and serve others in his name? **I Do.**

Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talents, resources, gifts and tithes, participating regularly in the worship of good works of St. Mark's (and St. James) United Church of Christ, praying for its leaders, its congregation, our community, the pastor and the unity of this church for the sake of the Gospel? **I Will.**

Will you invite and welcome others into a relationship with Jesus Christ for the sake of transforming the world? **I Will.**

To the Congregation:

Will you welcome Dave, Ann and Dianne as beloved children of God and members of this church? **We Will.**

Will you support and care for Dave, Ann and Dianne, pray for them, love them, work with and encourage them in all Christ-led ways? **We Will.**

Heavenly God pour out your Holy Spirit and bless these people even as they in turn bless the people around them. We ask your blessings on all who are gathered here today, that they are one with Christ.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

As Pastor and with the support of the St. Mark's Consistory, I welcome you: Dave, Ann and Dianne, as our newest members.

Be richly blessed in the ways of faithful community.

Be blessed to be a blessing to those outside the structures of the beautiful, physical church building, knowing that our church extends as far as the people will take it, so that others may come to know the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

St. James Affirmation of Faith: (Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;

The third day he rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead: I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

We know for sure that we do not have to talk God into forgiving us. God knows our need before we ask and has demonstrated in Jesus a timeless love that can never be exhausted. In this time of confession, we get honest and ask the Spirit God to come in and put things right.

Silent Time of Confession

Let us pray these Words of Assurance together:

“But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

Receive from such abundance and give thanks. You, child of God, are among the richest people in the world. You have the wealth of Christ with you always, even to the end of time. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn:

St. James (#469)

St. Mark's (#132)

I Need Thee Every Hour

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 ESV

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Message:

When Temptations Lose Their Power

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:

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Meditation on 'Blessed Assurance'

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Patient and merciful God, we bring our offerings humbly on this day, hoping they will bring fruit to the ministry of your church on earth. While our priorities aren't always on bearing good fruit, you are a patient Gardner. May our humble gifts, offerings and tithes be multiplied to the glory of your name, and the benefit of your children. Amen.

People's Prayer ~ 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:

St. James (#467)

St. Mark's (#515)

*I Love To Tell The Story
In The Bulb There Is a Flower*

Benediction:

May you go into the world in faith! Trusting God to lead you, trusting people to receive you. May you go into the world with hope! With God's presence before you and human dreams to carry you. Go into the world with love! Serving with those in whom Christ lives, and laboring for those for whom Jesus died.

Go now in Faith, Hope, and Love! To serve and love our Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Our Strength and Shield

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 is on summer break ~

St. Mark's UCC

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

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

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com

Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

Aug. 27th - Carter Clemens

28th - Bradley Grunwald, Faith Grunwald

30th - Kendra Schmitz, Kathy Stolzmann, Emmett Vogel

31st - Kevin Jump, Joanie Mohr

Sept. 1st - Clarence Belitz, Alyssa Grotegut, Brett Spindler

ANNIVERSARIES:

August 28th - Michael & Michelle Scharl



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL AFTER CHURCH AT ST. MARK'S TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS. BE SURE TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAG 😊

ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE - Monday, August 28th, 6:30pm

MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION- Sunday, Sept. 10th during the Worship Service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES AT BOTH CHURCHES ON SEPT. 17TH, 9AM TO 10AM

See the newsletter articles from each church for more information

STUDY BEGINS: Monday, September 18, 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM (possibly 5:30 PM)

at St. Mark's UCC. There are no books or other material to purchase. You will need to bring your Bible. If planning on attending, either email or call the church office with your preferred time (stmstjoffice@gmail.com or 920.693.8361)

Feel free to invite a friend, another church member, a neighbor or co-worker to join us. Good for ages 18 and up!

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.

“When you are tempted, he will show you a way out.”

Two children were fighting. When the dad separated them, he asked the older brother, “Can you think of any reasons why it might not be a good idea to beat up on your little sister? The boy immediately listed a number of reasons why he shouldn’t be fighting.

The dad was amazed! *He knows this speech better than I do*, he thought to himself. Then he tried a different question. “Can you give me any reasons why you think you *should* beat up your sister?” Here the conversation completely changed tone. Tearfully, the young boy recounted the many injustices he felt that he had endured and the lack of support he felt he was getting from the adults around him.

From that conversation emerged a deeper understanding between the father and the son; and too an understanding that helped the son outgrow his pattern of fighting with his sister.

When we are tempted, God looks to us to share what’s really going on in our hearts. When we do this, we create room for him to forge a new understanding and a deeper relationship with us so those temptations begin to lose their power in our lives.

How would you finish this sentence:

Dear God, if I could talk to you about anything, I would tell you...

Prayer: Dear Lord, we face so many temptations throughout the day. You know our weaknesses. You know where we are most susceptible to giving in. In those areas of our lives give us the strength, the courage, the endurance and guidance we need in order to overcome. We pray this in Jesus’ precious name. *Amen.*

NOTES:

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."*