

Memorial Sunday, November 22, 2020 St. James United Church of Christ St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz Pastor Kathryn Jaehnig Organist

Prelude Music Gathering in Readiness for Worship Ringing of the Bells Take Thou My Hand

Call to Worship (Responsively)

L: Praise God in the sanctity of the faithful. **P: Sing to God a new song, and dance for joy.**

L: God is our maker; the Ruler over all things. **P: It is pleasing to praise and worship God.**

L: God meets us in our anxiety and our troubles.

P: God calls us to a fresh and abiding hope and gives us the good news of life everlasting.

Opening Prayer (all together)

God, we thank you for your deep, immeasurable love. We thank you that your love covers us in its fullness, leading us in grace to a place beside you. Bless those who gather in your name, precious Lord, and may you be honored as we celebrate the lives gone before us. Bless those who have suffered; may they find comfort in your arms of love. And now, dear Savior, may our worship of you reach heaven's glories, until we see you face to face. Amen

Litany in Preparedness (Responsively)

O God, Father in heaven, Have mercy on us.
O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.
O God, the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful, Have mercy on us.
O holy blessed, and glorious Trinity, ever one God, Have mercy on us.

Young At Heart Time



Praising God in Music Memorial Reading For Those Gone Before Us I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Scripture Reading

L: This is the Word of God for you, the People of God. **P: Thanks Be to God.**

Message:

Memories – The Living Love

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Our Time of Prayer

The 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, Tithes and Gifts can be made on-line through our website (**St. James Only**), or by mailing your offering to: St. James UCC, 13312 Pioneer Road, Newton, WI 53063 OR St. Mark's UCC, W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland, WI 53015

Offertory Music

O Perfect Love

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

Beloved Lord, you offer us a precious gift. Your invitation to salvation through Jesus Christ frees us from so many unnecessary fears. As children of your light, we present these gifts so that others may share in the timeless message of your love. Encourage us to reflect your love to others, today and always. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

A Sending Forth Song

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Benediction

Go now, to love and serve the Lord. Let us walk with the feet of Jesus. Let us serve with the hands of Jesus. Let us see with the eyes of Jesus. And let us feel with the heart of Jesus. Amen

Postlude

This Week We Celebrate:

<u>Birthdays</u>: 22nd -Allison Luckow, Jonathan Meyer; 23rd - Wendy Meyer, Keri LaDuke; 24th -Vernon Henschel, Alexander Perronne; 26th - Amy Christianson, Marlene Kammann; 27th - Maverick Beck; 28th - Tiffany Schnelle, Rev. Patrick Schultz <u>Anniversary</u>: 25th - Henry & Bonnie Langenhahn

There will be a Virtual Thanksgiving Worship Service posted to St. James/St. Mark's UCC Website on Wednesday, November 25th.

SCIO NEEDS: Multi-Purpose Printer Paper, Paper Towels, Dishwasher Pods

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:

Read Romans 1-5 (first 5 chapters).

The first 4 chapters of Romans is spent on the power of the gospel to put people who are "locked up in sin" and not in a relationship with God, into a right relationship. Paul (in much of his writings) continues to emphasize that sin has no power over those in a right relationship with God. Christ overcame that power through his resurrection and the grace and mercy of God's forgiveness.

Jew and Gentile, all peoples, are invited to believe in and follow Jesus and enter into this new relationship. Chapter 5 (5-8 actually) offers assurance, reassurance, hope, reconciliation, and peace in and with God. Note the verses:

- we have been justified by faith
- we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus
- we have ... access by faith into this grace
- we rejoice in hope of the glory of God

Paul has a lot to say about this because once we become aware of our sin ~ aware in the sense of, "this hurts God; distances us from God; is not who God made me to be" it can be very difficult to forgive ourselves. Never mind that God has already forgiven us (through Christ) we tend to carry this burden with us.

Christ's taking of this burden is evidenced in the cross, but more than this his resurrection. Paul goes on to say (vs 9-10)

- we have now been justified by his blood,
- we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled ... (saved) by his life.

We will never be disappointed in our hope in God.

Prayer: Lord, help us to find peace in you. Help our faith to deepen and grow as our relationship with you deepens and grows. In Christ's name, *amen.*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:1-8 ESV)

