



Dear God,

I know I'm not
perfect, but I want
to thank you for
loving me anyway.

- Your Child

SERVICE OF THE WORD
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship Service with
St. James and St. Mark United Church of Christ
July 23, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Rev. Kim Henning, Guest Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist

**"If humans are not made for God, why are they only happy in God?
If humans are made for God, why are they so opposed to God?"**

Blaise Pascal

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Word:

Memories

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
God of Heaven and Earth, we gather as the Body of Christ and stand in awe of you and your power to create.

Women: We see the sun shining gloriously in the sky above.

Men: We give thanks for its rising and setting each day.

Women: We see the moon and the stars of night.

Men: We behold the wonder of this universe gloriously created by You.

Women: We see the animals of the field, the birds of the air, and the creatures of the sea.

Men: We remember that these too are the work of your creative voice.

Women: We see the lilies of the field and how they grow; they neither toil nor spin.

Men: We remember that our Lord keeps watch over all that exists on this planet.

Let us join our voices together as we profess what we know to be true.

We believe in God who created the world and all that is in it, including men and women who are given dominion over earth, sea and sky.

We believe that God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for the redemption of this world from sin, meaninglessness, and chaos.

We believe that all who follow Jesus find a quality of life that befits a response of praise, joy, and humility.

We believe that God's Holy Spirit is alive in the church---calling us to repentance, service, and love.

We believe that God intends for us to use our imaginative minds in the service of the poor, the lonely, the disabled, and the hopeless.

We believe in the truth of the gospel: God loves us; God forgives us; and God wants us to lay down our lives for others for the sake of God's realm on earth. Amen.

PASTORAL INVOCATION

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

**Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning;
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven;
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden;
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning;
Born of the one light, Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning;
God's recreation of the new day!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Years ago God said through Isaiah, "in returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength." In a contemplative way, I invite you to discern your need for rest and trust in the midst of life's upheavals. Let us pray.

O God, I know I do not measure-up.

I have sinned; I have fallen short of your glory.

O God, I am appalled by the evil in the world around me.

I am even more appalled by my involvement in this world's evil.

Instead of being humble,

I am prideful. I put myself before others.

Instead of choosing a way of service,

I have wanted others to wait upon me.

Instead of welcoming the stranger,

I have ignored; I have looked with suspicion.

Instead of being a good steward of creation,

I have desired luxury.

Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ have mercy on me.

Lord, have mercy on me.

And grant that I may behold the glory of your grace and forgiveness.

Amen.

RESPONSE:

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

**Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'till grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Let us take a moment to greet one another with, "The peace of Christ be with you," and "Also with you."

PSALM 139:1-12, 23-24

(In the words we're about to pray, the psalmist knows that everything about his life is known to God. There are no secrets. Before God we are transparent. Please pray with me.....)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:12-25

(In a letter to the church in Rome, the Apostle Paul writes about the power of the Gospel and its ability to instill hope within believers.)

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about

to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

YOUNG AT HEART:



God's Family

HYMN:

Children of the Heavenly Father

**Children of the heavenly Father, safely in His bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in Heaven, such a refuge e'er was given.**

**God, His own doth tend and nourish in His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them, in His mighty arms He bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord, His children sever
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His, the loving purpose solely to preserve them, pure and holy.**

THE GOSPEL

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until

the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

SERMON:

Weeds and Wheat Within

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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:

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:

Sunset

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

DOXOLOGY:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

All praise belongs to you, O God. To you we lift our hearts. Before you we bow in humility. We pray that these gifts offered here freely may be a witness to our love for you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

(chorus) And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. (chorus)

You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come (chorus)

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
lest you dash your foot against a stone. (chorus)

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE:

Lift Every Voice and Sing

**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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -9am-noon AUGUST 15, 16, 17. For
registration form call 920.693.8361 or email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com

Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

July 23rd - Madisan Langenhahn
25th - Jay Schnelle, Tom Urness
26th - Doris Sprenger, Alissa Uttech
27th - Katelynn Mauk, Ann Rodewald
29th - Chris Grotegut

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO:

July 23rd - Corey & Amy Clemens; Richard & Sarah Lutze;
Tim & Wendy Schueler
24th - Alex & Paige Perronne; Hank & Barb Reimer
25th - Eric & Brynn Bergeman; Jeff & Wendy Meyer
26th - Henry & Kari Langenhahn; Tim & Deanne Schultz



**RURAL CHURCH YOUTH VOLLEBALL
TONIGHT... 6:30pm, St. Mark's/St.
James VS Immanuel/Bethel at St. James.
Next week: Volleyball Tournament at
noon at Bethlehem**

**NEXT WEEK, SPECIAL MEETING AT ST. MARK'S
FOLLOWING LATE WORSHIP.**

**The Communion Worship Service will take place
on Sunday, August 13th instead of the 6th.**

St. Marks U.C.C. & St. James U.C.C.

Invite you to

POLKA & POTLUCK

Come for an afternoon of good friends, good
food and good ol' fashioned dancing.

Featuring Carl Laack

Please bring a dish to pass. You can sign up at your
church or online using this QR code.



DAY
AUG. 26
TIME
2PM

Spring Hope Barn
11424 Spring Lake Rd
Kiel, WI 53042