



Sunday, July 9, 2023
St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist Scott Siekmann, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Meditation on "Blessed Assurance"

Call to Worship:

We gather in this beautiful space,

To worship an amazing God.

Or hearts both heavy and filled with joy,

To give praise to the source of all goodness

We are blessed to be surrounded by like-minded men and women,

who wish to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Let us worship in this place, giving praise to God on high,

We will worship in joy and in truth. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we come before you this day as those who are often afraid to confess the ways in which we have disappointed and turned away from you. You give us endless opportunities to love and serve others, but we don't always seize these moments. When the beauty of your creation should give us pause to wonder -
the many petals of the fragrant rose,
the rainbow arcing proudly in the sky,
the sunset of many hues, and the sweet love of another...

We often turn our backs. We deny the gifts you have given us. We run from you rather than towards you. Your voice calls to us to come home, to come to you unafraid, to receive forgiveness and healing. Open our hearts this day to receive the magnificence of these blessings. Help us understand the many ways in which you love us and help us share that love with all those whom we meet.

Words of Assurance:

For even though we have turned away from God, yet God is faithful to us. We are God's beloved children, and this is the day God has given to us. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Rejoice, children of God! For God's mercies are ever before us. Amen.

♪ *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*
Hymnal #207; Worship & Rejoice #345

Young at Heart:



The Statement of Faith:

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

♪ *Come Thou Fount*

Hymnal #476; Worship & Rejoice #68

Scripture Reading:

James 2:1-4 NIV

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Message:

Playing Favorites

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

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:

Amazing Grace

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (Luke 21:5-19)

Holy One who calls us to the journey: it is so easy for us to become distracted so that we wander off the path you have put before us. The chaos of the world around us catches our attention, and we neglect the inner journey that keeps us closer to you. As we set aside this time to bring our gifts to you, may you draw our attention back to the wisdom and guidance that you put before us, and may it lead us to endurance that will carry us to kingdom presence! In Christ, we pray. *Amen.*

People's 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.

♪ *Leaning On the Everlasting Arms*

Insert; Worship & Rejoice #496

Benediction:

Renewed by the power of God's unconditional love and forgiveness; strengthened by the witness of Jesus to be of service to others, we go from this place rejoicing in the opportunities to serve our Lord in all that we do, and all that we are, and all that we will be. Go in peace and may the peace of God always be with you. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Postlude in D major

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

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: James 2; Lev 19:18; Matt 22:39; Mark 12:31; Romans 13:9;
Gal 5:14

James 2 offers a far-reaching treatment of the life of faith, beginning with a question of what faith actually is.

James is concerned about an understanding of faith that is too small. People may want to reduce faith to a series of statements that people profess to believe, but for James, faith is what is operative in a person's life. People act on the basis of what they believe to be true. So, if people say one thing but do something else, James would say their actual faith is the faith that underlies their actions. People must believe in something if they are to act at all. The question is whether the faith that actually shapes their lives is faith in Jesus Christ or something else.

Christians in the US may not think of social class as a problem, yet it is worth asking how comfortable the people in our congregations are when encountering people who visibly belong to a different social class. Networks of friendships often run along the lines created by income levels, education, and professional status. Perhaps we do not say to a poorly dressed person, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet" (2:3), but we may well leave them standing by saying nothing at all.

At this point, James calls readers back to a central teaching of the faith: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (2:8). This brings him to the heart of the matter, which is a notion of faith that is too small (2:14-17). If faith is reduced to saying a few words like "I believe," then the expression of faith can be reduced to a few words like telling a homeless person, "Have a nice day." For James, faith begins with a word—the Word of God that gives us new life, as he said earlier (1:18). And if that Word from God gives people life, then those who live out that Word extend life to others.

Faith is what is active in a person's life, actively giving life to you and to those around you. If it is not active, it is not faith.

NOTES:



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

July 10 – Emily Binversie, Jack Heckmann
11 – James Becker, Ryan Lutzke
12 – Linda Lutzke, Steve Schnelle
13 – Crissy Athorp, Pat Kleinhans, Michelle Mauk
14 – Gerald Thiel, Lindsay Summers
15 – Jim Schuette, Jan Strysick

ANNIVERSARIES:

July 9 – Bob & Tara Vandoske
11 – Steven & Crystal Schultz
13 – Gary Van Auken & Sandra Stark

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."*



**ST. MARK'S/ST. JAMES
RURAL CHURCH YOUTH
VOLLEYBALL TODAY,
6:30pm, at Immanuel**



**ST. JAMES CONSISTORY
MEETING – Monday, July 10th,
6:30pm**

The Mission Trip Team departs early next Sunday morning. Keep them in your prayers.

BUNCO



St. James and St. Mark's ladies join us for **BUNCO NIGHT**, Thursday, July 20th at 6:00 pm at St. James.

A \$5 participation fee is optional

Please join us and RSVP to

Jackie Mueller or Tammy Serketich or email tserketich@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ 2023

Growing With God
August 15, 16, 17
9am to noon
at St. Mark's UCC



All children welcome!

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

**JOINT OUTDOOR
WORSHIP SERVICE!**

**Sunday, July 23rd
10:00am at St. James**

Hot dogs & potluck follow
the Worship Service

Sign up for the potluck on the form at your church.