



**A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday, June 11, 2023**  
**St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Kim Henning, Guest Pastor  
Ann Rodewald, Organist      Scott Siekman, Reader

**When we are at our wits' end for an answer, then the Holy Spirit can give us an answer.  
But how can He give us an answer when we are still well supplied with all sorts of answers of our own?**  
Karl Barth

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Give glory to God, all you who trust God.

Give glory to Jesus Christ, all you who love Jesus Christ.

Give glory to the Holy Spirit, all you who believe. Amen.

We come together as people of faith.

**Like Abraham, we have been called on a journey.**

**Like Sarah, we will have our horizons stretched.**

**Like the faithful of all generations, we have been blessed by the upward call of God.**

I invite you to join your heart with mine as we pray,

**Here we are, Lord, on the road of life. Like pilgrims, we are walking a path we have never traveled before. We are here in worship, O God, as we pause here to draw breath into our souls, to pray, and to listen to your holy Word. We can't live in the past. We need your hand as we walk into the future. We can't undo the wrongs we have done, we need your mercy. We are not what we should be, we need your guidance. Our flames burn low, bless us with your Spirit so we might follow the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **HYMN:**

*Here I Am, Lord*

St. James: (Binder #13)

St. Mark's: (#559)

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

I invite you to join me in prayer as we come before whom Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid.

Let us pray:

**God of the past, present, and future, your Spirit is alive within and among us today. We praise you for each glimmer of hope, for each whisper of joy, and for each gesture of love. We proclaim that you have empowered us beyond our wildest dreams. As an act of faithful living, we confess that we have sinned and fallen short of your glory. Our pride gets in the way of our repentance. Our selfishness insulates us from the cry of the poor. We are embedded in old, destructive habits. Lord, have mercy upon us. Free us from our sin. Listen, as we silently recall our need for forgiveness.....**

## **SILENCE**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Beloved in Christ, hear the Gospel. Christ forgives. Christ heals. Christ restores us to a right relationship with God. Believe the good news, in Christ we are a new creation. Praise be to God. Amen.

**RESPONSE:**

*We Praise You, O God*

St. James: (#19)

St. Mark's: (#726)

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

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

**PSALM 50:1-15**

(We are about to pray the words of Psalm 50. Notice that this prayer begins with several acclamations about God. Long about verse 7, we hear from God. After identifying human actions that are not helpful, God finally identifies God's hopeful desire from us.....)

*The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.*

***Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.***

*Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.*

***He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:***

*"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"*

***The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.***

*"Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.*

***Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.***

*I will not accept a bull from your house, or goats from your folds.*

***For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.***

*I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine.*

***"If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is mine.***

*Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?*

***Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.***

*Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."*

## THE PROPHETIC WORD:

Hosea 5:15-6:6

*I will return again to my place  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will beg my favor:  
'Come, let us return to the Lord;  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.  
After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.  
Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.'*  
*Impenitence of Israel and Judah*

*What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,  
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgement goes forth as the light.  
For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.*



## YOUNG AT HEART:

*Who Needs A Doctor?*

## HYMN:

*Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

St. James: (#207)

St. Mark's: (#345)

## THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.  
And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician,*

*but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'*

*While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.*

**SERMON:**

*A Holy Desire for Jesus*

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

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:**

*~ 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:**

It is our delight, living God, to share, to bless, and to increase the spirit of your Son through our offerings. Thank you for allowing us to participate in this movement that gives hope to those in need. In all the ways we practice life, help us to show forth our trust in you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN:**

St. James: (#63)

St. Mark's: (#84)

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

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

**THERE'S ROOM FOR ONE MORE!** We have one open spot for our July 16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Mission trip to Cleveland, OH that we're trying to fill. Anyone may go who is 16 or older with written permission from a parent or if 18 and older, no permission form needed!

Contact Pastor Patrick by email or phone (cell: 608-352-9544) for more information.

# Staying Close, Staying Connected

## Our Church Celebrations!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:**

*June 11<sup>th</sup> – Mike Summers*

*12<sup>th</sup> – Michael Belitz*

*13<sup>th</sup> – Henry Lutze, Emma Perronne*

*14<sup>th</sup> – Sheri Kaestner, Amanda Wasmer*

*15<sup>th</sup> – David Krause, Finley Uttech*

*16<sup>th</sup> – Steve Gabsch, David Gumm, Austin Emre Nye*

*17<sup>th</sup> – Kathleen Hickman, Bruce Mansker*

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

*June 11<sup>th</sup> – Todd & Stacy Grunwald*

*13<sup>th</sup> – Jamie & Heather Henschel*

*15<sup>th</sup> – Lee & Nancy Sixel*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ 2023

Growing With God

August 15, 16, 17

9am to noon

at St. Mark's UCC



All children welcome!



**RURAL CHURCH YOUTH VOLLEBALL GAME TODAY—6:30pm,**  
St. Mark's/St. James VS Immanuel/Bethel at St. James.

**THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP – Monday, June 12th, 10am/5pm**  
at St. Mark's

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE NEXT WEEK THURSDAY, JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MEETING-** Due to the start of the Rural Church Volleyball season, we are working to find alternate meeting times. Watch for email updates.

***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."*