



Sunday, June 18, 2023
St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist
Sandy Perronne, Reader

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship

St. Mark's: *Jesus Is All The World To Me*
St. James: *The Church's One Foundation*

Call to Worship:

Hope is poured upon us this day!

God is with us, always offering healing love.

Now is the time for us to be people of action, not just those who silently sit and hear the good news.

Now is the time to seek the good; to heal those who are broken; to offer peace and hope.

Thanks be to God who has blessed us with abundant gifts.

We are called to use these gifts in service to God's broken world. Let us rejoice in the mission to which he has directed us.

Opening Prayer:

Faithful God, expand our thankful imaginations:

to time beyond our time,

to wisdom beyond our wisdom,

to strength beyond our strength.

As we pray for your coming reign,

remind us that the whole earth is already yours.

Even as we pray for things not yet seen,

help us celebrate your sure, eternal reign. Amen.

Hymn of Worship and Praise:

St. Mark's (#350)

St. James (#384)

The Summons

The Morning Light is Breaking

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.*

Young at Heart:



Hymn:

St. Mark's (#451) St. James (#87)

Be Still, My Soul

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:16

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Message:

The Pinhole; The Portal; and The Hubble
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:

St. Mark's: *My Story, My Song*
St. James: *Father, We Praise You*

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Your days are surely coming, Holy One, just as surely as the needs of this world are real. We offer these gifts in awe of your victory over the cross and in celebration of your present and coming reign, that life—even life abundant—might multiply for all people. Bless these gifts, that they may be used according to your will. *Amen.*

People'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 of Sending:
St. Mark's (#561) St. James (#373)

Christ for the World! We Sing

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:

St. Mark's: *Jubilation*
St. James: *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

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

THERE'S ROOM FOR ONE MORE! We have one open spot for our July 16th - 21st 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.

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: Rom 8:37-39; 1Cor 8:5-6; Phil 2:10; Col 1:15-10

Around us, we still hear the question asked, is there a God and if this world has any purpose. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans that humans may learn of God from the work of creation. But key to understanding who God is and all that God has done, is doing, and will do is found in Christ.

These verses are part of a poetic response to God's glory (Col 1:15-20) Within these words is the celebratory words of Christ's redemption and creation. Some would argue that we (humanity overall) have become less able and less skilled at singing praise to God and Christ. That we may even have forgotten how to speak the language of adoration.

When I think of what takes place on Sunday morning when we are gathered; and what happens with/through many of us throughout the week I would reject that argument. You can't help but to revel in the singing (song, prayer, word and gathering) of God's praise. Throughout the week many of you continue to worship and glorify God through your serving, your actions, what you say and do. You embody the act of poeticism and song celebrating God and Christ.

And yet, when you look at the world, I would tend to agree with the argument. Our world is a broken and hurting place. Far from God's intention of Creation. But here's the good news. Within each pocket of praising parishioners there beats a heart of spirit. A spirit that propels us onward and outward. We become the flowers overtaking the weeds. We become the gardeners planting seeds and nourishing them to fruition in what was formally desolate region. We are Christ-like following the lead of Jesus Christ in loving, grace, forgiving and healing. Thanks be to God for each one of you.

NOTES:

Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

June 18th – Mike Marcheske

19th – Mary Ellen Schnelle

20th – David Lorfeld

23rd – Bradley Mauk, Daniel Schultz

24th – Camryn Spindler

ANNIVERSARIES:

June 19th – Daniel & Katie Kleinhans

21st – Mike & Roxi Bernhardt

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/Bethlehem at Bethlehem UCC.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP – Monday, June 18th, 10am/5pm at St. Mark's. This is our last study group meeting until Fall. Watch for information in the future regarding a new group starting.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE THURSDAY, JUNE 22nd . Email them to Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com

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."*