



Sunday, June 25, 2023
St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist Jacob Grunwald, Reader

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship

Call to Worship:

People of God, tell it!

We are not alone! We are children of God!

People of Christ, tell it!

The Light has come in love and truth, teaching us to live in the Light.

People of the Spirit, tell it!

The Spirit of truth reveals hidden things, offering healing through honest confession.

People of God, tell it!

We are not alone! We are children of God! Amen.

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:

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Insert-St. James; Worship & Rejoice (#134)

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. James (#287)
St. Mark's (#414)

*God of Grace and God of Glory
I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Scripture Reading:

Romans 6:1b-11 ESV

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the

death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Message:

Know My Love

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response:

St. Mark's: (#658)

Our God is an Awesome God

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:

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Generous, giving God: the gifts we present this day represent the best of our discipleship. Let these be from our heart. Grant us the boldness we need to move out of the dark and proclaim our decision to be Christ's disciples to all, to shout it from the rooftops. May we speak to those we know and even to strangers of the love of Jesus without fear. May the way we live our lives be a proclamation of our decision to follow Christ! In His holy name, we pray. *Amen.*

People's Prayer:

Loving God, you tell us it is enough for us to be like you. Yet we are overwhelmed and discouraged by the injustice that surrounds us and our seeming inability to do anything about it. How are we supposed to be like you, all-powerful God, when we feel so powerless?

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

You tell us not to fear those who can kill the body but not the soul. Yet the violence in the world threatens to deaden our hearts, and that scares us. How are we supposed to resist fear when threats seem to abound on all sides?

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

You tell us we are of more value than sparrows. Yet we notice so many in our neighborhoods and our world who are treated as less than human, even less than a sparrow. How are we supposed to restore dignity to all those whom the world has devalued?

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

You tell us to tell in the light what we receive in the dark, to shout from the rooftops what is whispered in secret. In the face of the world's suffering, violence, and despair, whisper in our hearts that we learn to grow as your disciples who declare in the light the love and goodness of God with our voices and our lives.

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. James (#318)
St. Mark's (#390)

*Nearer My God to Thee
We're Marching to Zion*

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:

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: John 16:27; Jude 1:21; Psalm 36:7; Romans 5:8

I've always been fascinated with math. But don't confuse fascination with expertise. When I was pastor of New Bethel in Scottsville KY a church member of mine was also a teller at the bank I went to. I went in one day and filled out the deposit/withdraw slip and handed it over to the teller right next to her. My church member, in the meantime, was telling her that I was her pastor.

This teller looked at the slip I had handed to her and exclaimed; "this isn't right! Your math is all wrong." My church member looked at her and said, "I said he could preach! I never said he could add." 😊

When I look at math today, and the homework my daughter does, I am flummoxed, baffled, intrigued and in awe. How does this work? That can't be. That doesn't add up to what I think it should. It's beyond me!

I find this to be true with God's math as well. One man speaks before a multitude. He shares some words and thousands come to accept Christ as savior and Lord. That doesn't add up.

Jesus takes a few loaves of bread and some fish and feeds thousands of people with much left over. Huh?

Experienced fishermen fish all night and catch nothing. Jesus comes along and says – drop your nets there. The fisherman says, we've been casting our nets there all night. No fish to be had. But he does it anyway. Their nets are filled to overflowing – almost capsizing the boat. This doesn't add up.

One man goes to the cross, Jesus Christ. And the sum of all our sins are forgiven – by one man's love. By God's love. It doesn't add up, I am flummoxed, baffled, intrigued. I am in awe. Jesus loves you this I know...

NOTES:



Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

June 25th - Christine Gumm

26th - Tim Schultz

27th - Glenn Spindler

28th - Cheyenne Behnke

30th - Allen Stolzmann

July 1st - Ruth Ann Kolb

ANNIVERSARIES:

June 26th - Randy & Cindy Sohn

28th - Steven & Linda Rozmarynowski

Jim & Patty Taylor



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ 2023

Growing With God

August 15, 16, 17

9am to noon

at St. Mark's UCC

All children welcome!



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.



ST. MARK'S/ST. JAMES RURAL CHURCH YOUTH VOLLEYBALL has a BYE this week and next week.

July 9th – St. Mark's/St. James vs Immanuel/Bethel
at Immanuel

July 16th – St. Mark's/St. James vs Bethlehem
at St. James, 6:30pm

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."*