

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Pentecost

St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn/Kathy Jurk, Organist

Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Jacob Grunwald, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship: St. James: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*
St. Mark's: *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

Call to Worship:

Let every Christian pray, this day and every day, come, Holy Spirit!

Was not the church we love commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth to seek and save the lost:
God never has withdrawn, since that tremendous dawn, the gifts of Pentecost.

Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour: come, Holy Spirit, come!

Unite, instruct, inspire and fill us with your fire: come, Holy Spirit, come!

Opening Prayer:

In the beginning, O God, your Spirit swept over the chaotic deep like a wild wind and creation was born. In the turbulence of my own life and the unsettled waters of the world today let there be new birthings of your Spirit. In the currents of my heart and the upheavals of the world, today let there be new birthings of your might Spirit. *Amen.* [J. Philip Newell]

Hymn of Worship and Praise:

St. James (#191)
St. Mark's (#551)

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God
As a Fire is Meant for Burning*

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:



St. James' Choir Anthem:
St. Mark's Hymn: (#550)

*Redeemer, Rock, and Refuge
We are the Church*

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 20:9 ESV

*If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.*

Message:

A Burning Fire Within

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Come to this table, where bread and cup are transformed by the Spirit of God into a meal of love and grace ~ a supper of visions and dreams ~ a table where all souls are welcome.

Loving God, whose Divine Lungs exhaled the Spirit into our World.
Your breath continues to transform our world from the still to the stirring.
Before the earth was formed the Spirit of God swirled through voids and shadows.

As woman and man were created the air of God filled the lungs of Adam and the soul of Eve. This Divine Air continues to fill us up when our bones are dry, and spirits are sluggish.

On this day of Pentecost when we celebrate the breath of the Spirit coming upon the disciples, we invite the Spirit to come upon these elements.

God of winds, pour out your Spirit to make the elements come alive for us.
Make this meal awaken our sleepy hearts and stagnant souls.
May this time of eating and drinking be one
where we stir from our sadness and rise from our hopelessness.
May we begin to celebrate visions
And animate the dreams that have only been alive in our minds.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: *“Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: *“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and all for the forgiveness of all sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

As we join in this celebratory meal, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

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:

St. James: *There Is a Redeemer*

St. Mark's: *Breathe On Me Breath Of God*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

We dedicate these gifts, freely given and gratefully received, to the work of this, your church: welcoming the stranger, pursuing justice, upholding religious freedom, honoring human wholeness, and caring for our planet. Together, we seek to serve with ever-greater love. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending:

St. James: (#253)

St. Mark's: (#712)

*Take My Life and Let It Be
Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

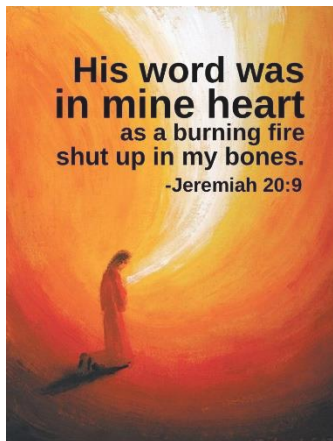
Benediction:

God of love, the day is long and its burden heavy: give us grace to see your hand at work in the lives of those around us so that adversity will not overwhelm us, nor resentments possess us. Remain with us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, for whom we now go forth to love and serve in all that we do, all that we are, and all we will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. James: *Heralds of Christ*

St. Mark's: *Ceremonial March*



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



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*May 28th - Jared Luebke, Wendy Schnelle,
Carlene Sohn*

29th - Carson Russart

30th - Kelly Luebke-Handrow

June 1st - Janet Schueler

ANNIVERSARIES:

May 31st - Mark & Kathy Jurk

*June 3rd - Tim & Angel DeBlaey
Dale & Doris Sprenger*

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP will not meet tomorrow.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE, Monday, May 29th, 8:15am at St. James Cemetery by the Wagner-Eberle-Sukawoty American Legion Post in St. Nazianz

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING - Thursday, June 1st, 6:30pm
(St. James Consistory Meeting is next Monday, June 5th)

MISSION & VISION TEAM MEETING - Saturday, June 3rd, 8-9am at St. Mark's

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY IS 'STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH' SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY

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.

BRAT FRY

Location: Tietz's Piggly Wiggly
714 S. Wisconsin Drive
Howards Grove, Sheboygan

When: Saturday, June 3, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Also... **BAKE SALE** - Baked items will be
available for good will offering

St. Marks UCC and **St. James UCC** are raising funds for a
youth mission trip.

Our destination - Cleveland, Ohio through Next Step Ministries.

We will be **serving the community** by doing yard work, small
construction projects, working at the local food bank, and more.

Help us **provide our youth** the opportunity to
build new **relationships**, connect with the **community**, and
have an **experience** they will never forget.

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.

The prophet Jeremiah finds himself in an excruciating dilemma. Jeremiah has been preaching the Word of God (as prophets do). But, the Word of God in his case is one of “violence and destruction.” God is telling the Israelite nation to change their ways or else! Certainly, an Old Testament message and one we’ve heard from other prophets as well.

The problem for Jeremiah is God’s word is like a fire within him. He is unable to resist the urge to speak, even though he is being persecuted, ridiculed, and enduring physical harm because of what he is saying.

What is it that burns within us to say or do? What is God telling us that needs to be shared, shown, visualized, and acted upon? Sometimes, we have great difficulty in trying to nail down the fire within us. That fire can be quenched with the icy cold waters of society around us – which tells a very different message than God’s.

What is it that we are to say or do that goes against the grain of everyone else and leaves us ostracized, criticized, disliked or ignored? It’s painful to go against the flow of everyone else, isn’t it? Sometimes we get beat up – maybe not physically, but emotionally. Either way, it’s not pleasant.

And maybe we, like Jeremiah get angry at God for what we experience. We blame God and tell him to remove the burden from us. Much like Paul asked God to remove the thorn in his side. Or like Jesus did when he asked the Father to take the cup from his hands. And yet, both were very much in agreement – let it be your will God.

Accepting that this (whatever it is) is God’s will can help fortify us and strengthen us where we are weakest. As impossible as it may seem, all things through God are possible. **Thank you, God, for making it possible for us. Amen.**

NOTES:

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."*