

Mystery

Embracing the mysterious nature of God through the book of Job

Disoriented October 8
Deserted October 22
Silenced October 29
Restored November 5 (St. Mark's)

Sunday, November 5, 2023
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk, Organist Sandy Perronne, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Faith Of Our Fathers

Call to Worship:

L: We are God's children. What we shall be has not yet been revealed;

P: but we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him,

L: For we shall see him as he is. So today and every day,

P: may we put on Christ and live as saints

L: who tend the poor,

P: comfort the mourners,

L: learn from the meek,

P: affirm those who seek righteousness,

L: offer mercy alongside the merciful,

P: and work for peace with the peacemakers until Christ comes in final victory and we feast as the family of God at his heavenly banquet.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for being our God. You are the Lord of everything, yet you care about each person. Please send your Holy Spirit to us today. Help us trust you. Increase our faith in you. Thank you for working your will in our life, even as we come to worship you. We pray in Jesus' name. *Amen*

Hymn: (#51)

How Great Thou Art

[Please Be Seated]

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

O Lord, let your Holy Spirit move within us so that when we look around, we see the wonders of your creation. Let no darkness cover our sight and no sadness overwhelm your beauty.

All around us are majestic reminders of the grandeur you offer to us. Strengthen us that we might set aside any weakness, or attitudes of indifference or destruction. You gave us this world that we would live into it, cherish and protect it, and receive from its bounty. No longer shall greed and selfishness drive us or be harbored within us. Our love for Christ will drive out any petty desires for wealth, position, and power, and bring us into a ministry which proclaims your love and justice for all your people. These things we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Words of Assurance:

We are not alone; we live in God's world. God hears the cries of our hearts, sees our actions, knows our attitudes. In the midst of our sinfulness, God reaches out to heal and forgive us. We receive the forgiveness which God has offered so that we may live in God's love. *Amen.*

The 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.*

Hymn: (#84)

O God, Our Help In Ages Past (Vs. 1, 2, 5)

Scripture Reading:

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Then Job answered the LORD and said:

*"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.'
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."*

And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold.

And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

Message:

Restored

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:

All Creatures of Our God and King

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of all generations, as we worship today, we offer our whole selves to you, all that we have and all that we are and all that we will be. Like your saints who have gone before us, we pray that you will help us to be bold in our mission and in our witness. May we who have been given so much give freely, ministering in your compassion to the multitudes near and far, so that one day, we may stand amid the multitude that gathers at your heavenly throne. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
[Rev 7:9-17]

People’s Prayer ~ 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.*

Hymn: (#748)

Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

Benediction:

Gracious God, in your presence alone we find our acceptance, reconciliation, and our heart’s true home. While answers to our questions elude us, your love reaches out for us and constantly offers us the way of abundant life. Help us to choose to place our feeble hands in the strength of your amazing grace as we go forth today. *Amen.*

Postlude:

The Glory of the Spirit

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 meets 9-10am at both churches~

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

Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

November 5TH – Hank Reimer
6th – Amanda Henschel
7th – Brian Karstedt
9th – Allen Jones
10th – Richard Lutze
11th – Lori Roelse

ANNIVERSARIES :

November 6th – James & Bonnie Schuette
7th – Dave & Jackie Mueller



Sunday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.

Mission Fest

St. Mark's UCC

79286 Dairyland Drive, Cleveland

Featuring...

Lisa Key

from Emmaus Homes in St Louis

Dinner to Follow

Proceeds to be used to meet OCWM Goal

\$15 - Adults --- \$5- ages 5-10
Under 5 - Free

Ham ~ Meat Balls ~ Homemade Salads
Parsley Butter Potatoes ~ Rolls ~ Corn
Homemade Desserts



2024 Mission Trip

Elliott County, Kentucky

Our Trip will be: July 14-19, 2024

All are welcome!

Mission Trip meeting will be held Thursday, November 9th, 2023
at 6:30pm at St. Mark's UCC

To reserve your spot, please bring a \$50 (non-refundable) deposit to the meeting.
I have 35 spots held until November 20th (first come, first serve). After that spots are no longer
quarantined depending on Next Step Missionaries availability.

Any further questions, please contact

Anna Marie Bramstedt @ 920.698.7656 or jaab93000@tds.net



****REMINDER – PASTORAL ASSESSMENTS ARE DUE TODAY!**

There are paper copies of the survey in the back of church.

FALL STUDY GROUP – Monday, November 6th, 10am/5pm at St. Mark's. Bring your Bible.

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY - Monday, November 6th, 6:30pm

ST. JAMES ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL – Wednesday, November 8th, 6:30pm.

ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE – Wednesday, November 8th, 7pm.

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY IS MISSION FEST AT ST. MARK'S DURING A JOINT 10:00 SERVICE. There is no Worship Service at St. James (come to St. Mark's) and no Sunday School at either church. A ham/meatball dinner will follow the service.

MISSION TRIP MEETING – Thurs., Nov. 9th, 6:30pm at St. Mark's.

MISSION/VISION TEAM – Saturday, Nov. 11th, 8-9:30am

BUNCO – Thursday, Nov. 16th, 6pm at St. James. All ladies welcome!



OUR JOINT SMJ YOUTH, AS WELL AS ST. MARK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD for girls & boys ages 5-9. This month we're collecting toys.

Ideas:

Ball
Toy cars
Yo-yo
*Etch A Sketch®
*Slinky®
Interactive toys
Kaleidoscope
Building blocks

Other small toys and figures
Small board games
Small doll
Plastic dinosaurs, animals, and action figures

*smaller versions of these

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.

Faith is our trust that God will not leave us or forsake us in this world and in the world to come. Faith is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Faith expresses itself in trust-filled dependence that the God of resurrection is present to us through the Holy Spirit and that our relationship with the Triune God is defining to the core of our identity.

Job learns that God can be trusted (and encountered) but never manipulated or controlled. Likewise, it is not that our faith is rewarded with heaven nor is it a ticket through the heavenly gates. Faith, also, does not protect us from the chaos that persists in this world. Whatever sufferings we experience here; our hope is that the God of resurrection will be at work in all things to bring redemption. Here are two questions to consider:

- Do you agree with the sentiment, “Being with God is more important than understanding God”? Why or why not?
- What might we learn from Job about what it means to trust God in all situations?

Consider verses 1-2 from Job 42. Job talked to God. He said that God is the most powerful being of all. Nothing is impossible for God. God performs miracles every day. To “thwart” is to get in the way or stop something from happening. But no one is able to prevent God’s plans from happening. Job realized that God is the one in charge of everything. Can you think of miracles—big or small—that God has performed in your life? How does God active in your life determine your faith? And if he hasn’t been noticeably active in your life?

Prayer: Thank you for being our God. You are the Lord of everything, yet you care about each person. Please send your Holy Spirit to help us trust you. Thank you for working your will in our life, even when we don’t understand. We pray in Jesus’ name. *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."*