



July 25, 2021  
St. James United Church of Christ  
St. Mark's United Church of Christ  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Organist: Ann Rodewald

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*Were You There*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: I will give you thanks with all my heart;

P: I will sing your praise before the heavenly beings.

L: I will bow down toward your holy temple;

P: And give thanks to your name for your constant love and truth.

L: You have exalted your name;

P: and your promise above everything else.

L: On the day I called, you answered me;

P: You increased strength within me.

Opening Prayer (All together):

Heavenly Father, I rejoice in the joy of my salvation and celebrate in the truth that Christ - my risen, ascended, glorified Lord, is seated on the right hand of the Father in heavenly places. Thank you that by faith in Christ, I too might have life eternal and enjoy fellowship with the Father, despite the inevitable difficulties and dangers that I face in this fallen world. Thank you that he is continually before me. May I never be shaken, knowing that Christ is seated on the right hand of the majesty on high, and by death has conquered death and given life-eternal to all who believe in him. In His name I pray, *Amen*.

Praise God (sung response):

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Hymn of Life: (#10 Hymnal)

*O Worship the King*

Prayer of Confession

O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb; I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights; I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities. I am blind while the light shines around me: take the scales from my eyes, grind to dust my heart of unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, sit like Mary at your feet, lean like John upon your breast, appeal like Peter to your love, count like Paul all things but dung. I believe, help my unbelief. *Amen*

Words of Assurance: (All together)

We long for your healing, knowing if that you but say the word, all will be well. And yet, you, Creator of heaven and earth, did not hold back your own Son in order to liberate us from our sins and reconcile us to yourself.

Like the loving Father that you are, you run to us, embracing us, welcoming us back into your presence.

And amazingly, you even call us your children, and have promised to make your home with us—and to live with us forever. Holy Spirit, help us to abandon our sinful ways and come home. *Amen*.

Affirming our Faith Together: The Apostles' Creed (all together)

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.*

Song of Assurance: (#7 Hymnal)

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 16: 7-11

Message:

*Descension into Hell*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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

*Softly and Tenderly*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Generous God, thank you that all things were created through you and for you, you are before all things, and in you, all things exist. The Bible says that we should bring our tithes and offerings into your storehouse and that you will respond by opening the windows of heaven and sending down blessing upon blessing.

Accept the gifts we place before you now. May the peace of God reign in our lives, the love of God surround us, the Spirit of God empower us and the joy of God uphold us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *Amen.*

A Sending Forth Song: (#371 Hymnal)

*Jesus Shall Reign*

**Benediction:**

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.  
In Christ's saving grace, go now to love and serve our Lord. *Amen.*

**Postlude**

*Apostles' Creed Hymn*

**Psalm 16:10 ESV**

*For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.*

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

TODAY: St. James/St. Mark's Youth Group Volleyball vs Saron at Saron  
at 6:30 pm. Come & show your support to our youth!

Next Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> - St. Mark's - 9:00 Worship  
St. James - 10:30 Worship  
~Holy Communion at Both Churches~

VBS - at St. Mark's - August 17, 18, 19, 9:00am to noon ~  
Contact Pastor Patrick to register

**THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS:**

Birthdays:

July 25 - Jay Schnelle, Tom Urness  
26 - Doris Sprenger  
27 - Katelyn Mauk, Ann Rodewald  
29 - Chris Grotegut  
30 - Wayne Grunwald  
31 - Amy Clemens, Grace Schultz

ANNIVERSARIES:

July 25 - Eric & Brynn Bergeman  
25 - Jeff & Wendy Meyer  
26 - Henry & Kari Langenhahn  
26 - Tim & Deanne Schultz

Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org) email: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com) phone: 920.693.8361

Send an email to be added to our prayer chain.

Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

## 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:

1 Peter 3:18-20

Acts 2:27, 31

John 20:11-18

Where was Jesus between the hour of his death and the morning of day three when those who loved him saw him again? His body was entombed and guarded over by Roman soldiers. The reader of the Creed understands Jesus no longer stands in the land of the living by the words following his crucifixion: *dead, and buried*. But what about his Living Spirit?

No other statement in the Creed raises near the amount of uncertainty as does, “he descended into Hell.” Some congregations keep these words in the written and prayed Apostles’ Creed. Some do not.

Why is this one article so widely argued and variously interpreted while every other article is accepted by Christians and clearly sustained by Scripture?

*Sheol*, the Old Testament word for hell, was used in two contexts. Sometimes it meant the grave or realm of the dead. At other times it meant the place where the wicked go and are punished.

In the New Testament the word hell is used to translate two entirely different Greek words ~ *Hades* and *Gehenna*. *Gehenna* was the name of the valley right outside of Jerusalem where living sacrifices were made and refuse was burned. *Hades* meant the “unseen” or the realm of the dead.

1 Peter 3:18-20 tells us that Jesus “went and preached unto the spirits in prison”. This can also be widely interpreted; however, I believe this points to Jesus being engaged in ministry on behalf of those for whom he died.

**Prayer:** Help my faith to grow stronger. Let me believe, Lord. *Amen*.

## Notes: