



May 9, 2021

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist Scott Siekman, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Call to Worship:

L: When God's Word comes upon the world, the world is never again the same. An old age ends, and a new day begins.

P: Renew us in this new day; let your Word come upon us.

L: When I caught the wind of the Word of the Lord, I tried to run away. Why should I deliver a message to a hostile people?

P: Refresh us O Lord; Help us to see in a new light the importance of sharing your Word.

L: When I caught sight of the Word of the Lord, I went on mending my nets. Why should I drop my home and my work to chase a carpenter's dream?

P: Reignite within us, the fire of the Holy Spirit emboldening us on our way. Let the old age end! Let the new day begin!

Opening Prayer (All together):

Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you. We have heard it spoken that almighty power belongs to God, and that to God belongs steadfast love. We appeal to this power ~ with this love we plead. Heal us and set us on the right path. Let your voice be heard in all our ears, speaking to us and our need. If we are the light of the world, you are the flame that lights us. Hear our voices cry out, O Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing and Dedication of our New Communion Table:

The dedication to Christ's service, of any person or thing, is not undertaken lightly. It is done with deliberation and intent. In the case of the Communion Table, we understand that it serves a vital role in our time of worship. For all intents and purposes, this is the table where Jesus sat with his disciples before the night of his arrest and crucifixion.

When we come to it, bidden by Christ to receive the Sacrament of Bread and Wine, we come by Jesus' invitation. We hear the words he spoke that night,

"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...
After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying "This is my body, which is given for you"

In the same way he took the cup after the meal and said,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

This table has been given to the service of St. James in memory of Marie Fessler. Marie joined St. James when she was married in 1941. She was a faithful, generous, loving, caring, compassionate, humble, selfless, and persevering servant of Christ in our church for 77 years, although she spent her last years at Field of Dreams (still contributing financially and caring and praying for everyone). Nothing was more important to her than her faith in God and being in church every Sunday. Even when traveling, she, Alfred, Joanne and Elaine had to find a church on Sundays.

On this table is inscribed II Corinthians 5:7: (*For we walk by faith, not by sight*)

L: King of kings, yet born of Mary;

P: As of old on earth He stood.

L: Lord of lords, in human venture;

P: In the body and the blood.

L: He will give to all the faithful;

P: His own self for heavenly food.

Let this table be blessed in the name of Jesus Christ. Upon it sits the sacraments of the Last Supper – the bread and wine. To it come the children of God, receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Let this table be blessed that it not only holds the sacraments but

symbolizes and serves to remind the people of Christ's Holiness. Let this be an open table to all who would come to know Christ. *Amen.*

Bread of the world in mercy broken, wine of soul in mercy shed. By whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead: Look on the heart by sorrow broken, look on the tears by sinners shed. And be thy feast to us the token that by thy grace our souls are fed. *Amen.*

Young at Heart



Hymn of Life:

O How Shall I Receive Thee

Prayer of Confession:

O God, whose breath inspires life and whose heart beats in the womb of the world, how unfeeling we are! We fear the touch of your breath for it stirs the winds of change. We are numb to the rhythm of your heart for it brings the pangs of birth. We feel, we fear, and we grow numb to the world that is our home. When we feel, we fear, and we grow numb among the people of our community that is our home. Release us O God and unleash us to do the work of the kingdom. Bid us rise and send us even to those places that we consider defiled, even to those persons we consider unclean. Show them through us, that your love may purify. And show us, through them, that we too may be purified.

Words of Assurance: (all together)

Release us O God, that we may receive your spirit. Place our finger on the pulse of life. Transform us, and we shall know a world transformed. The ordinary shall become unusual, the routine shall be miracle. The time for loving will be strengthened; the time for hating will fall away. We who have loved and lost shall find; we who have hated and gained shall lose. The last shall be first, and the first shall be last. *Amen.*

Song of Assurance:

Amazing Grace

Scripture Reading: Message:

Mark 1:16-18; 16:15-16
Change Our World: One Person At A Time
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Pastoral Prayer and 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*

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:

Something Worth Living For

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

We dedicate the work of our hands to building the community of saints. May our offerings be a hymn of praise to our Creator and a song of thanksgiving to our Redeemer. May these gifts, tithes, and offerings further Christ's mission and accomplish your will for all of humanity. *Amen*

A Sending Forth Song:

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Benediction

Go now in the knowledge that you are known by God and that you may know God. Go in the assurance that *what* is known is not as important as *who* is known. And go in the confidence that whoever is known will be loved. *Amen.*

Postlude

For the Healing of the Nations

MARK 1:16-18; 16:15-16 ESV

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."



GPS

THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE:

Birthdays: May 11th – Andrew Taylor
13th – Katie Belitz, Alyssa Boutelle
14th – Alice Broehm

Anniversary: May 14th – Tim & Amanda Russart

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

Mon., May 10th – St. James Consistory, 6:30pm
Wed., May 12th – ST. JAMES BRAT FRY, 4-7pm, CARRY OUTS ONLY
Confirmation Class, 6pm
Sun., May 16th: – St. Mark's - 9am Worship
St. James – 10:30 Worship
Confirmation at St. James next week, May 16th,
and at St. Mark's the following week, May 23rd

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:

2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 Corinthians 3:6; Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 4:2-5; Acts 20:24

I believe that people desperately want to know that Jesus will make a difference in their lives. And God's deepest desire is for all the people to be in relationship with him.

Influencing, making a difference, changing our world can be another word(s) for evangelism. Evangelism is generally understood to be 'reaching out to those who do not know Christ – and introducing them to one another.' Whatever we want to call it, we are called by Christ as his followers, to show people how God is already working in their lives. We are called to show people God's love.

One of my favorite hymns, "*Here I Am Lord*" shares these words:

<i>I, the Lord of sea and sky</i>	<i>I who made the stars of night</i>
<i>I have heard my people cry</i>	<i>I will make their darkness bright</i>
<i>All who dwell in dark and sin</i>	<i>Who will bear my light to them</i>
<i>My hand will save</i>	

Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

The people are calling to know God. Today, more so than ever before. If we are sent by God to answer the call – how will we do so? One person at a time. And know, we do not go alone. God goes with us.

Prayer: Holy God, you who have made us in your image, strengthen us for the holy task at hand. We are your children. We will go ~ you can send us. But we need some help along the way. Provide for us O Lord that we may help to share your good news. In Christ's precious name. *Amen.*

Website: www.stmstjucc.org email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com
phone: 920.693.8361

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