



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.*

**Affirmation of our Faith:**

*Statement of Faith*

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. 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:**

**Mark 1:16-18; 16:15-16**

**Message:**

*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."*



**THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE:**

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

Anniversary: May 14<sup>th</sup> – Tim & Amanda Russart

**LOOKING FORWARD TO:**

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

## 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:**

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.*

## NOTES:

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

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