



Confirmation Sunday, May 22, 2022

St. Mark's UCC

We Gather in God's Presence

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Ann Rodewald, Organist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Walk With Me

Introduction of the 2021 – 2022 Confirmands and Recognition of the Parents and Mentors:

Robert and Tara Vandoske

Ron Vandoske

Brianne Vandoske

Scott and Tammy Dexter

Lori Roelse

Alexa Dexter

Eric and Kelly Miota

Anna Marie Bramstedt

Alexander Miota

Cory and Alissa Uttech

Annabelle Uttech

Henry Jr. and Kari Langenhahn

Wendy Meyer

Williem Langenhahn

David and Christine Gumm

Doris Sprenger

Everit Gumm

Call to Worship: (please stand as you are able)

Everit Gumm

L: Through every age and in every place the Christ, in whose name we gather, calls disciples with a simple invitation.

P: As we gather this Sunday, we are one with the disciples.

L: We are the people of Jesus Christ, diverse in human characteristics but united in our call to love God.

P: Together we are the body of Christ to God's glory and honor.

L: To welcome our six confirmands into a new journey with Christ our Lord.

P: To be blessed by the Holy Spirit for the building of God's kingdom, we thank you, Lord!

Opening Prayer:

Alexa Dexter

Our heavenly Father, this morning we call upon you to bless us. Let your faithful love surround us as we gather this Sunday. Let us accept your holy blessing as we go about our lives fulfilling your expectations. In Christ's name we pray. *Amen.*

(Please be seated.)

Presentation by the Confirmands:

Brianne Vandoske

Alexa Dexter

Alexander Miota

Annabelle Uttech

Williem Langenhahn

Everit Gumm

Vows of Faith and Commitment:

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Today you will "confirm" these simple baptismal promises: that God loves you forever, that God is always for you and never against you, that with the power of the Holy Spirit you can do amazing things throughout your life, and that you are indeed called (like Jesus) to bring goodness and grace to this world.

To the confirmand:

Do you repent of your sins and wanderings from God; Condemn evil and injustice in our communities and this world? **I do.**

Do you accept the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of Jesus Christ to become who God has made you to be? **I do.**

Do you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, put your trust in him and promise to learn more about him, follow him, and serve others in his name? **I do.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to live a Christian life, seek to be a disciple of Christ, and remain a member of the Christian church even and especially during trial and adversity? **I do.**

Will you be an active, engaged member of St. Mark's UCC; keeping the people of this church and community in your prayers, attending worship weekly, serving others; and supporting the ministries and missions of this church financially? **I will.**

Will you invite and welcome others into a relationship with Jesus Christ for the sake of transforming the world? **I will.**

To the congregation:

Members of the household of God, I commend them to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith. Confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Larry Perronne, Consistory:

Almighty God, who in baptism received these servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant them love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them in their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Confirmation Prayer:

Williem Langenhahn

O Holy Spirit of God, take us as your disciples. Guide us, illuminate us, sanctify us. Bind our hands, that they may do no evil. Cover our eyes that they may see it no more. Sanctify our heart that evil may not dwell within us. You are our God. You are our guide. Whatsoever you forbid us, we will renounce. And whatsoever you command us, in your strength we will do. Lead us then unto the fullness of your truth. *Amen.*

Sung Response: *(see next page)*

Go Tell It On the Mountain

The Word in Scripture:

John 17:6-11

Annabelle Uttech & Zander Miota

The Word Proclaimed:

They Are Yours!

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Ours is an open table for guests and visitors as well.

Prayer:

Lord God almighty, we magnify your holy name and give heartfelt thanks that you allowed Jesus to lay down his life for our sake, we recognize that by the virtue of Holy Communion, we are covenanted with Christ Jesus and he has borne all of our infirmities, sin, and reproach on the cross of Calvary. We pray thee that by the virtue of the Holy Communion, you will draw us nearer unto you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Communion Liturgy

We gather around this table today, Almighty God, to give you thanks. You claim us as your people, bathe us in forgiveness through Baptism, and draw us together into your church. You call us into your royal priesthood, a holy people, and you give us this holy meal as food for our journey.

Today these confirmands profess their faith and your presence in their journey. Today they claim your gracious love for themselves and seek to live into a deeper and mature faith. Give them your grace and peace. Now we join together to remember and experience anew the presence of the risen Christ in our midst at this table.

We give thanks for the gracious life of Jesus: teaching and healing, challenging and loving, dying and rising.

As we eat this bread and drink of this cup, pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may go forth to live as those claimed by you, your holy people, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all the world this day. To God be the glory now and forever! **Amen.**

Confirmands ~ Immediate Family & Mentors ~ And All

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.

This system shows the first line of the refrain. The treble staff contains the melody with notes and rests. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Last time, end

Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

This system shows the second line of the refrain. The treble staff contains the melody. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
3 Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

This system shows the first line of the main body of the song. The treble staff contains the melody. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

This system shows the second line of the main body of the song. The treble staff contains the melody. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves. The system ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'to Refrain'.

Offering:

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church.

Offertory Music:

Change My Heart, O God

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication: *"Each of you must bring a gift..." (Deuteronomy 16:17 Williem Langenhahn*
O Heavenly God, we praise Your Almighty Name! You have blessed our nation with immense wealth and opportunity. You have blessed us with your grace and mercy time and time again. And you have commanded us to honor you with our wealth. I pray that you will be honored greatly this day as we give to you what is already yours. Bless these cheerful givers and bless the tithes and offerings that they give. May they be multiplied tenfold that we may continue to serve in mission and ministry to those in need. We love You God! *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

Brianne Vandoske

Lord, as you send us out to the world around us, send out your Spirit to touch the hearts of man. Look kindly on all candidates for confirmation as they listen to your voice. May God bless us all who are brought together. Thank you for the bless of Pastor guiding us through our confirmation journey. In the Lord's name, Amen.

Sending Forth Hymn: (see next page)

Go, My Children With My Blessing

Postlude:

We All Are One in Mission

John 17:6-11 ESV

I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

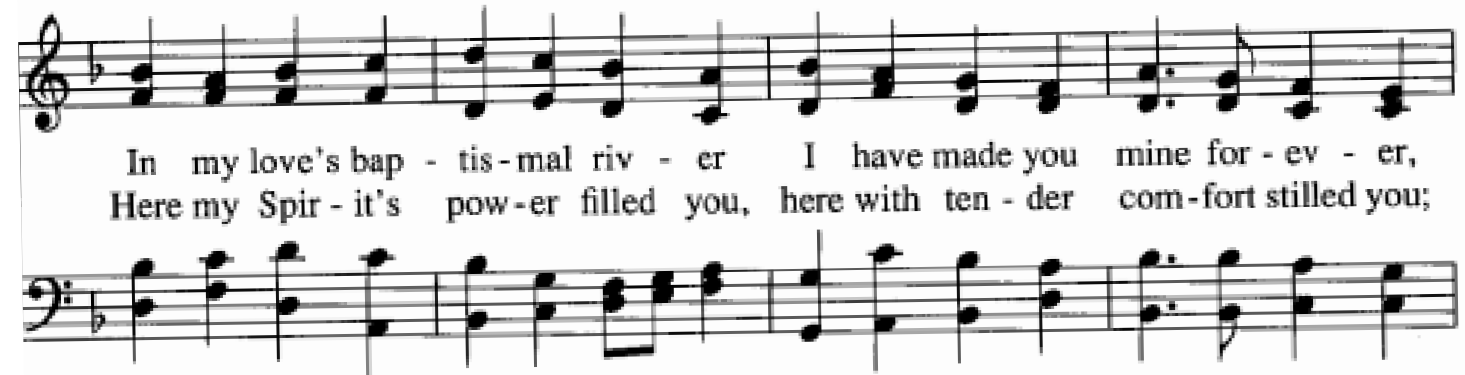
Go, My Children With My Blessing



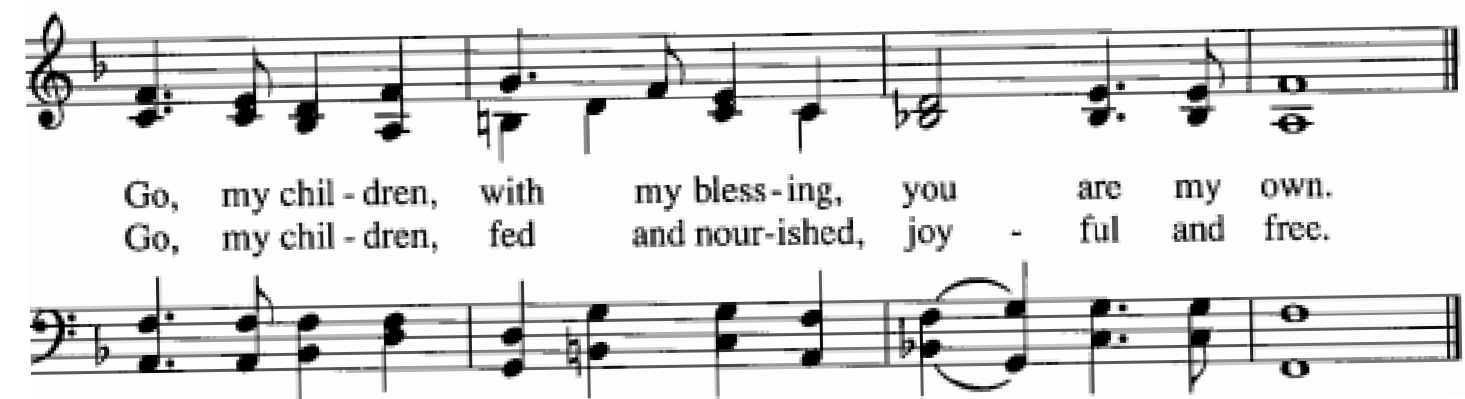
1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis-mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow-er filled you, here with ten - der com-fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

Confirmands' Presentations:

Brianne Vandoske:

Scripture: "The Lord will work out his plans for my life—for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me." (Psalm 138:8)

This verse is very important to me because it assures me that God knows his plans for my life and I can put my trust in him because of that. The verse also assures me that God's faithful love will always surround me because he made me just the way he planned and wanted me to be made.

What was special about confirmation:

This year I really enjoyed confirmation because I got to grow closer to my fellow confirmands as well as meet with my mentor on a regular basis and stay in touch with them.

Mentor Comments (Ron Vandoske): Brianne is a very busy, intelligent, young lady. We had interesting discussions about life and its problems and also its joys. Brianne is excited about her future. Family and friends are most important to her.

Alexa Dexter:

Scripture: Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

I picked this scripture reading because it is telling the world to keep going, and it is telling me to stay strong because no matter what, the Lord is always by my side.

My favorite memory this year with my amazing confirmation class was watching us slowly become friends. We all started off very quiet and before we all knew, Wednesday nights were made fun! I benefited by making friends which strengthened my community through the church.

Mentor Comments (Lori Roelse):

It has been a joy to get to know Alexa this past year. She is thoughtful, insightful, and loving. Many of our conversations focused on living our faith, showing God's love through our actions. She really took that to heart as she talked about standing up for others in her daily interactions with peers and with family. She and the other confirmands formed a tight bond as they created friendships and a faith community within the larger context of our congregation's community. She finds church to be a welcoming place and feels good about being here. Alexa's relationship with God is important to her as she found can always turn to Him.

I grew as well during our time together. My church family is very important to me, but I don't often talk about my faith. I want my actions to speak for themselves. Sometimes words need to be added to the actions, though. The conversations Alexa and I shared helped me to voice my faith, reminding me that my relationship with God is also important and that I can always turn to Him.

Alexander Miota

Scripture: But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.

(2 Chronicles 15:7)

This scripture means to me that even when things are hard, you should believe in yourself and not give up. Good things will then happen. In school, if I get my homework done, I get rewarded with taking a break and also having no homework. In my life when I work hard at things, it feels good.

Things that were special to me about confirmation was hanging out with friends and getting to know Everitt and Williem better. I liked learning about the Bible even though it is still confusing.

Mentor Comments (Anna Marie Bramstedt):

I have had the privilege to watch Zander grow both academically throughout the school days and spiritually throughout Sunday School and Confirmation. Zander has grown into such a fine young man who is not afraid to ask questions when something is confusing to deepen his understanding of his faith. He mentioned how he is sad to see this chapter of his life close, but yet a whole new walk of faith is just beginning. Zander, I challenge you to continually follow in God's footsteps each and every day and let God's love fill your heart in all of your actions.

Annabelle Uttech

Scripture: I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

This verse speaks to me because it motivates me to follow my dreams and reminds me that God is always giving me strength.

My favorite memory of confirmation was when we played hide in seek in the church after class!

Pastor Comments (Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz):

While Annabelle did not have a mentor this year, I would like to share a few words. I watched Annabelle come into confirmation with a sense of hesitancy and uncertainty. What was this going to be like? What was expected of her? Could she fail confirmation? But as the months went by, her natural sense of assuredness began to prevail. She spoke with more certainty. Engaged in the class. Asked great questions. And she (and Alexa) taught me a little bit about dancing on TicToc! She greeted worshippers and handed out bulletins and read scripture during Lent and on Sunday mornings. I so very much enjoyed having her in Confirmation this year and am excited to see her continued engagement in the church!

Williem Langenhahn

Scripture: The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the hard work of your hands. You will lend to many nations, but will borrow from none. (Deuteronomy 28:12)

I selected this scripture because ...because when I grow up, I would like to be a farmer and I also enjoy working with my hands. This scripture verse relates to God providing the right weather conditions I would need to grow and harvest crops as a farmer. In my spare time I enjoy making wood and there is one part of this verse that talks about blessing the hard work of my hands and making wood is an activity I enjoy doing with my hands. This verse also talks about giving to others, but not taking from anyone. This is very important to me as I enjoy making wood for my Grandpa and Grandma Langenhahn and Uncle Fritz, but I don't ask anything from them in return.

What was special about Confirmation: One thing I enjoyed about confirmation was having my own set of wheels to get there. I would take my four-wheeler to confirmation, and this made me feel very responsible and independent.

Mentor Comments (Wendy Myer):

It was a great experience to get to know Williem. Our meetings started with 1- or 2-word responses that were very meaningful and well thought out. His faith has grown from the role models around him. I envision Williem to be an active member of our church who volunteers to help out with special events. I will always remember our time together when I eat out at Culver's. Good luck Williem as you continue your faith journey and become a member of St. James. I hope you will remember our time together as a memorable one.

Everit Gumm

Scripture: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

We decided this verse fits me best because The Lord God our father.... Which is often called the Big Man in the Sky.... He watches over each and every one of us. Although I struggle with the idea of my whole life being planned, and set in stone, before I lived it. All the choices I make have already been made for me. God has a path for me that will guide me through life.

What Confirmation has meant to me: Confirmation gave me the opportunity to learn more about my Bible, the Church, and the Sacraments of the Church, which are baptism and communion. I learned that when I was baptized, my parents and god-parents took responsibility for my faith upbringing. Now, with going through confirmation, I was given the tools to complete of my faith. A part of completing the confirmation journey is being able to partake in communion as a member of St. James.

Mentor Comments (Doris Sprenger): My Confirmation student has very knowledgeable talents and abilities. Everit had various questions and was not sure as to what to expect by attending confirmation class. Our time together was spent on a weekly basis. At that time, lessons were talked about and questions were answered. We explored different version of the bible, talked about the Evangelical Catechism along with his *My Confirmation* book. Everit realized he was completing another chapter in his life that started with his parents and god parents bringing him to be baptized also attending Sunday School, learning about our church's history, and what church means to all people. Everit is excited that he has completed confirmation class and is glad that his grandma got to be his mentor.

