

Make a  
*joyful noise*  
to the LORD  
Psalm 100:1

**January 17, 2021**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God  
Sharing with the World**

**January 17, 2021**  
**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

*I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*  
John 10:10

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

Fairest Lord Jesus - Arr. Diane Bish

### **Opening Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us

1 Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,  
saying "Christian, follow me."

2 As, of old, apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for his dear sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying "Christian, love me more."

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us; by thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,

give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.

## **Lifting up our Joys**

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **✠Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters, we have been called here, led by the Spirit,  
and adopted into the household of heaven.

**People:** **All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**

**Leader:** We bring our different abilities and a variety of gifts  
given by the Spirit for the good of all and to the glory of God.

**People:** **All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**

**Leader:** No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.  
Come, welcome the power, wisdom, love of the One who has called us.

**People:** **All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**

### **✠Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, every day the news is flooded with reports of terrible things happening all over our community, country and world. We realize there is comfort and safety in You. Lord, we ask that you protect us all and hold us close to you. Precious Saviour, we are listening to Your word and we choose to put our faith and our trust in You! Amen

## ✠ **Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

**Gracious God, Creator and Father, we come before you as a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have preferred our way to Christ's way; we have disobeyed your commandments; we have put our own desires before our duties to God and neighbor. Forgive us and make us eager to follow you more faithfully, in obedience and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

## ✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Friends in Christ if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive Our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is God's gift to us and the world so that we can know abundant life.

## **Bible Readings**

*Psalm 100 & Matthew 6: 25-33*

Brenda DeRenzo

## **Children's Message and Blessing**

## **Today's Message**

"Make a Joyful Noise"

Jamie Barton

## ✠ **UCC 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.

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Prayer of Our Savior** (*unison*)

**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**

### **✠ Giving our Gifts to God**

#### **✠ Doxology**

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

### **✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

## Closing Hymn

### Cornerstone-

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest friend  
But wholly trust in Jesus name

Christ alone  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong  
In the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord  
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong  
In the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord  
Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh, may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne  
Christ alone  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong  
In the Saviour's love  
Through the storm

He is Lord  
Lord of all

## ***Worship Leader: Jamie Barton***

### ***Blessings to you from St. John's United Church of Christ in Orwigsburg.***

*Make Handwashing a Time of Prayer: Washing our hands for 20 seconds is one of the ways to reduce the spread of the COVID virus. How long is 20 seconds? That is sometimes hard to track. However, there is a way that combines adequate handwashing and praising God. The Doxology that we sing during worship, (it starts with "Praise God from whom all blessings flow....") takes approximately 20 seconds to sing. By choosing to sing the Doxology each time we wash our hands we mentally shift our focus from the challenge of living within a pandemic to thoughts of gratitude and the blessings God has bestowed. Focusing on these positives in the midst of our challenges improves our health and wellbeing. Thanks be to God.*

*The Bible Study for women: "Tis well: walking away from anxiety and into God's world" will now be done as an email study. We will post some readings and reflections once a week and people can respond to all on the email list for discussion. We have heard from a number of people who do not do zoom but who are interested. Please email Kay Jones at [kjones8022@aol.com](mailto:kjones8022@aol.com) to participate. The day and time will be set by those who join.*