



**January 23, 2022**

**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 23, 2022

Third Sunday after Epiphany

## Meditation

“You have to be near Him to hear Him.” Jared Brock

## Chimes

## Prelude

*Healing is in your hands*

*Chris Tomlin*

## Welcome and Announcements

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

## ✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

The Spirit of God is upon us.

**We are called to be God's people.**

The Spirit of God is upon us.

**We are called to be the body of Christ.**

Come let us worship God, who binds us together  
in love and service.

## ✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

## ✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, believers and doubters alike, we share a deep need, for we are lost without your grace. Search us and know our hearts, test us and know our troubled thoughts. Forgive us our wrongs and transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day, to learn more about sharing your love with others through Jesus Christ our hope.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

**✠ Assurance of Forgiveness** *(read responsively)*

The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. In Christ's name, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

-- from Psalm 145:13-14.

*(the congregation may be seated)*

**Bible Readings**    *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21*    Tom Kramer

**Children's Message**    Pastor Jeff

**Pastor's Message**    *"Jesus First Sermon"*    Pastor Jeff

**✠ 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.

## ✠ 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.**

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer *(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**

## ✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

### ✠ Chimes/Meditation

## Postlude

*Wonderful Words of Life - Philip Bliss*

***Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson***  
***Acolyte: Sophia Spolski***