



**January 24, 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 24, 2021**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

*"Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us." Psalm 62:8*

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**     Never Let Go / Savior Like A Shepherd - arr. Christopher Phillips  
                         Tracey Holler, flute  
                         Gale Sterner, percussion

### **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:**

**Pastor:** God has been acting in our lives and in the world around us this past week.

**People:** **We have come for this hour of worship to make ourselves more aware of God and to give thanks for God's presence with us.**

**Pastor:** God is here even now, ready to strengthen us and to urge us to greater faithfulness.

**People:** **Fill us with your goodness, O God. Draw us into the orbit of your activity in the world that we might fulfill the purpose for which you created us. Amen**

### **✠Opening Prayer**

Dear God,

May we open our hearts to you this day to worship and to receive your wisdom and guidance for our lives. May we be led to renew our commitment to follow Jesus and to share his love. May we find strength for today and hope for tomorrow in you O Lord. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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

**Dear God, for those of us whose hearts are troubled, or spirits crushed by sin or circumstance, deliver us. Bring healing and wholeness of mind, body and spirit, and freedom to be the people we were always meant to be. 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 62: 5-12 Mark 1: 14-20*

**Children's Message and Blessing**

Pastor Jeff

**Special Music**

Jesus Name Above All Names - Nadia Hearn  
Christopher Holler, Saxophone

Jesus, name above all names  
Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord  
Emmanuel, God is with us  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word

**Today's Message**

*"The Call of Christ"*

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.

## 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**      *What a Friend We Have in Jesus - arr. Gary Gazlay*  
*Bell Choir*

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit  
Oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

## ***Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson***

***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.*