

**January 30, 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 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

## Meditation

“A state of mind that sees God in everything is evidence of growth in grace and a thankful heart.” Charles Finney

## Chimes

## Prelude

*When God Ran - Benny Hester and John Parenti*

## Welcome and Announcements

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

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

How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

**For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.**

God makes us new in God's Spirit!

**Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.**

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

**All: Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God.**

## ✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

## ✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Dear God, we confess that we are easily led astray by our own desires and that we are reluctant to forgive those who offend us. We acknowledge that we do not always delight in your joy over sinners who repent and that we often regard what we do for you as a burden. Forgive us those times when our faith has become a set of rules and regulations. Help us to draw closer to you and to rejoice when you rejoice and to weep when you weep. Through Christ our**

**Lord.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

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

In Christ, we are forgiven! May we experience the joy and peace he has promised us as we likewise forgive others. **Thanks be to God!**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

**Bible Reading**                      *Micah 7: 18-20*

**Children's Sunday School Skit based on**

**The Parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

**Pastor's Message**                      *"Tying It All Together"*                      Pastor Jeff

**✠ The Apostle's Creed (unison)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.** *(From the UCC Book of Worship)*

**✠ 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

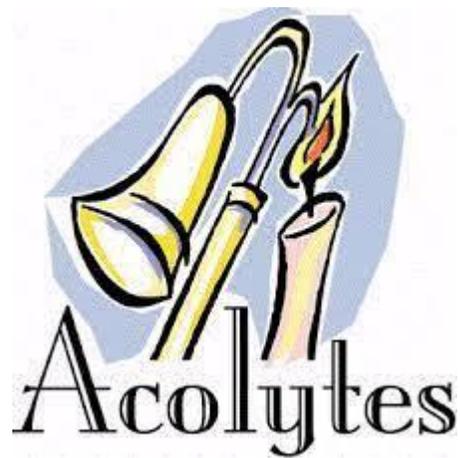
### ✝ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude *Lord, I'm Coming Home - William Kirkpatrick*



*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
in loving memory of Harry & Dorothy Moore,  
Presented by Jim & Lori Moore*

*Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson*



*Olivia Pacovsky*