



October 25, 2020

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**

October 25, 2020

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

Obedience is listening to God, to another person, and to our lives and responding to what we hear because of love. Jane Tamaine

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Love Lifted Me
Gale Sterner, percussion

Opening Hymn

Cornerstone

Verse 1

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

Chorus

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

Verse 2

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

Chorus

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

Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

Chorus

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

CCLI Song # 6158927

Lifting up our Joys

Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship: from Psalm 1

Leader: Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked

People: or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

Leader: The one whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his Law Day and night.

People: That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—

Leader: Whatever they do prospers.

All: Not so the wicked!

✠ Opening Prayer

O God of Love, remind us that the greatest laws are based on the divine love you and your son have first given to us. Let us follow Jesus's commands regarding love: to love you wholly and to love others as ourselves. Even in times that are anxious and divided, even in times of fear and confusion, we are always commanded to love. Dear Lord, as we cry out for your love, may we bring your love to our struggling world. We pray in Jesus name. Amen

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

We confess to almighty God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. 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 90:1-6; 13-17; Matthew 22; 34-40* Stephen Goodale

Children's Message and Blessing Kay Jones

Today's Message *"What Does Love ask From Us?"* Kay Jones

✠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

From the great abundance that God has given to us in every way, we are given the opportunity each Sunday to present our gifts to God as a congregation. These can be gifts of money, certainly, but are also the gifts of time and talent we share with others during the week. Every small daily act of compassion is also offering a gift to God. Collect these in your heart each night, remember them and offer them to the Lord. And now, Dear Lord, we bless all the gifts this congregation have offered to you this week. Gifts of time, talent and treasure. Amen

✠ 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 Song

They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love

Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

Verse 2

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand

And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

Verse 3

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

Worship Leader:

Kay Jones

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 to participate. The day and time will be set by those who join.