



October 4, 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 4, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

Remember that we are always in the presence of the sacred, but that the sacred nature of life is only apparent to those who are open to it. John McQuinston II

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

You are My All in All - Arr. Christopher Phillips
Tracey Holler, flute; Gale Sterner, percussion

Opening Hymn

It is Well

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul
It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul

It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship Psalm 119

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God;

People: The skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Leader: Day after day they pour forth speech;

People: Night after night they reveal knowledge.

Leader: They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

All: Yet their voice^[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

✠ Opening Prayer (Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is injury, pardon Where there is doubt, faith

Where there is despair, hope Where there is darkness, light

And where there is sadness, joy O Divine Master, grant that I may

Not so much seek to be consoled as to console

To be understood, as to understand

To be loved, as to love For it is in giving that we receive

And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned

And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life

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 *Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 16; 19-25* Bob Peters

Children's Message and Blessing Kay Jones

Anthem *For Where Love is, There is God - Douglas Wagner*
Bill Miller, Tracey Holler, Barb Skelding

Today's Message *Lord, Make me an instrument...* 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 *(recited)*

**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

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.

*Bible Study: It is Well. Walking Away from Anxiety and into God's Word
St. John's Orwigsburg will be hosting a bible study by zoom starting on Wednesday, October 7 at 9am. We will be using a wonderful book brought to us by Tracy Holler, "Tis Well. Walking Away from Anxiety and into God's Word". In this time of so much chaos it will be a quieting and centering study of God's love and care for us.*

We are going to do this by zoom so you will need a computer or smart phone able to connect to zoom. If you have not used zoom before we will walk you through the steps to connect. Please contact Kay Jones if you would like to take part. We will need to order the books for you so we will need your answer by September 23rd. Kay's phone number is 570-366-1333. If you would like to do the study but do not have a computer, please call and let her know and we can try to make other arrangements.