



November 1, 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**

November 1, 2020

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

Verse 1

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land
The battle belongs to the Lord
No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand
The battle belongs to the Lord

Chorus

And we sing glory honor
Power and strength to the Lord
We sing glory honor
Power and strength to the Lord

Verse 2

When the power of darkness comes in like a flood
The battle belongs to the Lord
He's raised up a standard the pow'r of His blood
The battle belongs to the Lord

Verse 3

When your enemy presses in hard do not fear
The battle belongs to the Lord
Take courage my friend your redemption is near
The battle belongs to the Lord

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (From Psalm 136)

Leader - O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - O give thanks unto the God of gods:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - O give thanks to the Lord of lords:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader — To him who alone doeth great wonders:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - To him that by wisdom made the heavens: And stretched out the earth

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - And brought out Israel from among the Egyptians with a strong hand, and with a stretched-out arm:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - To him which divided the Red sea into parts: And made Israel to pass through the midst of it:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - To him which led his people through the wilderness:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - To him which smote great kings: And slew famous kings:
And gave their land for an heritage:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: And hath redeemed us from our enemies:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

Leader - O give thanks unto the God of heaven:

All - for his mercy endureth for ever.

✠ Opening Prayer

Dear Lord of Mercy and Justice: We are your people. Protect us in this time of peril. Bring peace to us in this valley of fear and confusion. Help us to always remember your promise to guide and keeps us at all times. Restore our confidence in your words to your people in time of need: That you will never desert us. That whatever comes, we will have the strength to meet it and triumph in your name. Amen

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)* (From Psalm 139)

**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the
way everlasting.** *(Silent confession)*

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

The Lord says “ I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Bible Readings

Judges 2:6-23

Children’s Message

The Rock-a-thon

Susan McCartney, Mollie Sarnes, Ethan Frantz

Special Music

Then They Will Know - Michael Card

Bill Miller, solo

Today’s Message

Gideon answers the call

Litany of Remembrance

Kay Jones

Leader: We thank you, O God, for the saints of all ages and places, and for those known and loved by us, who have passed from this earthly fellowship into the fuller light of life with you.

All: **Eternal God, we are your children, we give you grateful thanks for our brothers and sisters in this household of faith.**

Leader: For Abraham, the father of the faithful, for Moses, King David, Queen Esther, and the prophets of old who led and instructed your people.

All: **Blessed are you, O God of Israel.**

Leader: For Jesus, the Christ, The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

All: **Praise be to you O God and to Jesus Christ.**

Leader: For the disciples and apostles. For those who stood steadfast in faith, facing persecution and even death.

All: **Praise be to you, O God and to Jesus Christ.**

Leader: **For those whom we love who have recently departed:**

**Ruby Berger, Janet Smith, Joanne Kraft, Ray Gaston,
Kathryn Heinbaugh, Raedel Moore, Marge Fitz**
(Bell tolls after the reading of each name)

All: **Praise to you, O God, and to Jesus Christ.**

Leader: **For the mighty company of every race and nation who worship you,
O King of Saints.**

All: **Blessing and Honor and Thanksgiving be to our God Forever. Amen**

✠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 Song

Peace in the Valley

Verse 1

Oh well, I'm tired and so weary
But I must go alone
Till the Lord comes and calls
Calls me away, oh yes

Well the morning's so bright
And the lamp is alight
And the night, night is as black
As the sea, oh yes

Chorus

There will be peace in the valley for me, some day
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord I pray
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow
No trouble, trouble I see
There will be peace in the valley for me, for me

Verse 2

Well the bear will be gentle
And the wolves will be tame
And the lion shall lay down by the lamb, oh yes

And the beasts from the wild
Shall be lit by a child
And I'll be changed
Changed from this creature that I am, oh yes

Chorus

There will be peace in the valley for me, some day
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord I pray
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow
No trouble, trouble I see
There will be peace in the valley for me, for me

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.