



**November 14, 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**

**November 14, 2021**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Meditation**

“Not by its size is my gift judged, but by how much of me there is in it.”

A.W.Tozer

## **Chimes**

## **Prelude**

*My Savior, My God - Aaron Shust*  
*Gale Sterner, percussion*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **✠ Opening Hymn**

*Come Ye Thankful People, Come*

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,  
fruit as praise to God we yield;  
wheat and tares together sown  
are to joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take the harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away,

giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
bring thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified,  
in thy presence to abide;  
come, with all thine angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.

## **Lifting up our Joys**

## **Passing of the Peace**

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

What to you bring before the Lord this day?

**We bring our hopes and our dreams to the Lord**

What do you seek?

**We seek peace for our weary souls.**

You will find it in this place, for this is the house of the Lord.

**Open our hearts and our spirits, O Lord, to hear your words of comfort and peace. Amen.**

### **✠ Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

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

**Dear God, our self-focus causes us to imagine how poor we are. We are convinced we don't have enough: enough honor, enough respect, enough recognition, enough to live on. And so, in our poverty, we struggle to trust you and to see the needs of others. Forgive us, O God. We pray for the freedom to be more loving and compassionate with a heart to serve others.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

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

The good news is that we are made whole; not by our efforts or by any work we have done. Out of the riches of grace, God pours forgiveness into our lives, giving us all we need in Jesus Christ, so we might live in hope and joy. **Thanks be to God!**

**Bible Readings**

*Psalm 146; Mark 12:38-44*

Ellen Kirby

**Children's Message and Blessing**

Pastor Jeff

**Pastor's Message**

*"The Widow's Gift"*

**Chancel choir**

*All Creatures of Our God and King - Steven Strite  
Tracey Holler, flute*

**✠ 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)*

*(the congregation may be seated)*

**Stewardship Sunday Moment**

Bob Miller

**✠ 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**

### ✠ Closing Hymn

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

#### Verse 1

For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the gifts of every nation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.

#### Verse 2

In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done;  
in our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

#### Verse 3

For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God;

for the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

✝ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✝ **Chimes/Meditation**

**Postlude**     *Chorale - J. S. Bach*



***The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
In honor of our daughter & Son-In-Law, Julia  
and Jeff's wedding anniversary,  
Presented by Kim & Chuck Bonner.***

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

