



November 15, 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 15, 2020

Twenty fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song

Tribute To The Armed Forces
Gale Sterner, Percussion

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship

Leader: Brothers and sisters, we have been called here,
led by the Spirit, and adopted into the household of heaven.

People: **All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**

Leader: We bring our different abilities and a variety of gifts
given by the Spirit for the good of all and to the glory of God.

People: **All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**

Leader: No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.
Come, welcome the power, wisdom, love of the One who has called us.

People: **All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**

✠ Opening Prayer

Kay Jones

Dear Lord of the Light: We thank you for this day of life. We thank for the joy of community and the support of your church through the difficult days we face. We thank you for the love and faith we have been given through Jesus Christ. We are your children. Help us always to seek your light and turn from the darkness. Help us to be mindful of the salvation brought to us by Jesus. May we be truly your people in this world today and all days. Amen

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Gracious God, Creator and Father, we come before you as a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have preferred our way to Christ's way; we have disobeyed your commandments; we have put our own desires before our duties to God and neighbor.

Forgive us and make us eager to follow you more faithfully, in obedience and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent pause for reflection

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Remember the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all who repent and believe:

All: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Leader: Sisters and brothers, believe the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Bible Readings

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Susan McCartney

Special Music

*People Need the Lord-Greg Nelson
Ray Riegel-Solo*

Children's Message and Blessing

Trena Murphy

Today's Message

“Of Comfort and Encouragement”

Ray Riegel

Special Music

Midnight Cry-Chuck & Greg Day

Ray Riegel

✠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 *(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

Closing Song

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea

Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

Worship Leader:

Ray Riegel

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.