

I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.

Abraham Lincoln

quote fancy

February 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**

February 14, 2021
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering

Meditation

“Focus on God, not your problem. Listen to God, not your insecurities; rely on God, not your own strength.” Unknown

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Shine on Us- Michael W. Smith/ Deborah Smith*

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face
Shine on us

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face
Shine on us

That we may be saved
That we may have life

To shine our way in the darkest night

Let your light shine on us

Lord, let your grace, grace from your hand,
Fall on us

Lord, let your grace, grace from your hand,
Fall on us

That we may be saved
That we may have life

To shine our way in the darkest night

Let Your grace come over us

Lord, let Your love, love with no end
Come over us

Lord, let Your love, love with no end
Come over us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life

To shine our way in the darkest night

Let Your love come over us

Let Your light shine on us

Opening Hymn

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature
O thou of God and man the Son
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling starry host
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations
Son of God and Son of Man
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be thine

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship:

Pastor: The Lord has called you here this day.

People: **Lord, reveal to us your purposes for us.**

Pastor: Open your hearts to receive God's good news.

People: **Lord, make us ready to serve you.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship God!

People: **Let us sing our praises to the Almighty One. Amen.**

✠ Opening Prayer

✠ **Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

Dear God, we often go through our days busy and focused on our work and our own needs. Forgive us for missing your still small voice and the many other ways you wish to speak to us. Merciful God, take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice and following your wisdom and direction for our lives. Amen. *Silent pause for reflection*

✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again. Believe the good news of the gospel that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Amen!**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Psalm 50: 1-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Wendi Wheeler

Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

Special Music

Adoration - Felix Borowski
Nathan Dialectakis, violin

Today's Message

"Driven to Our Knees"

Pastor Jeff

✠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.

✠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.

(the congregation may be seated)

Prayers of the People

Pastor Jeff

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**

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

(the congregation may be seated)

Closing Hymn

Shine Jesus Shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me
Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word

Lord, and let there be light
Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness

Shine on me, shine on me
Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story

Shine on me, shine on me
Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light.

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson

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.

New Bible Study for women has started, contact Kay Jones for information.

[***kjones8022@aol.com***](mailto:kjones8022@aol.com)