



February 28, 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 28, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Meditation

“We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise, we harden.” Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Opening Hymn

Way Maker

Verse 1

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

Verse 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

Verse 3

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

CCLI Song # 7115744

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

Birthday Blessings

✠ Call to Worship: (Congregation reads bold print)

Welcome this day to the second step on our Lenten Journey.

We come with great hope and expectation as we walk the way of Christ.

Today's journey will demand much of us.

Lord, make us ready to offer ourselves to you.

Come, let us begin again the wondrous excursion.

Let us place our lives in God's abiding love. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Dear God, we know that we are imperfect; we recognize that we have weaknesses and faults. We seek your pardon and grace; we confess our mistakes and wrongdoing. Forgive us for neglecting our faith, ignoring your commands, and permitting our sins to separate ourselves from You. Hear us now as we personally confess and pray.

Silent pause for reflection

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

The journey of discipleship is never easy; but we can be assured that we will not be on this journey alone. Place your trust in Jesus. **Amen!**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Mark 8: 31-38

Ethan Frantz

Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

Hymn of Response I Surrender All

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live
All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me, Jesus, take me now

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior

I surrender all
All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly thine
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me
May I know Thy power divine

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

✝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

Rock of Ages

Bill Miller, solo

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

LENT 2021 | Reflect. Repent. Restore.

Pastor Jeff will offer a Wednesday evening devotion and prayer time on Facebook live during lent (Mar 3, 10, and 17, and 24) at 7:00 PM

- Maundy Thursday service with Tenebrae, April 1st at 7:00 pm
- Easter Celebration - Sunday, April 4th, 10 am

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.
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