



# Fifth Sunday

AFTER EPIPHANY

2.7.2021 | 10AM

## **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 7, 2021**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.” - Maya Angelou

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** Spirit Of God Descend Upon My Heart- arr. Mark Hayes

**Opening Hymn** They'll Know We are Christians

#### Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes,  
they'll know we are Christians by our love.

#### Verse 2

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes,  
they'll know we are Christians by our love.

#### Verse 3

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes,  
they'll know we are Christians by our love.

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

### ✠ Call to Worship:

Pastor: How wonderful it is to sing our praises to God!

People: **Praise the Lord who gathers us together.**

Pastor: God's mercy is given generously to all in need.

People: **We are never out of the reach of God's love.**

Pastor: Come, worship and celebrate. God is reaching out to you this day!

People: **Praise be to God who continually heals and forgives us.**

All: **Amen.**

### ✠ Opening Prayer

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

**God of endless possibility, we confess that we do not always perceive the opportunities you place before us. Caught up in our own hopes, plans, and concerns, we are slow to see the open pathways you set before us. Open our eyes, that we may accept the new life you offer us, and thus show forth the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

#### ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

We have called, and the Lord answered. We have cried for help and He said, "Here I Am." Know that God has forgiven us and loves us.

**Thanks be to God!**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

## Scout Sunday Recognition

### Bible Readings

*Isaiah 40: 28-31; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23*

Boy Scouts

## Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

## Today's Message

*"The Best Motivator of All"*

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)*

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Invitation to the Table**

#### **✠ Communion Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

May the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, now and forever. Therefore, we join with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

#### **✠ Sanctus** *(recited)*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

*(the congregation may be seated)*

### **Words of Institution**

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

### **The Blessing of the Elements**

Pastor Jeff

Gracious and loving God, nourish us as we gather at your table. With deep gratitude, we offer you our lives – our love – ourselves, gathered in Christ by your life-giving spirit. May we become a new people wholly pleasing to you, a people

giving glory to your name.

## **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**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

### **Sharing the Elements**

Take and eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

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

**Holy God, thank you for your love which lifts us, your presence which fills us  
and your life which empowers us to be your people. Amen.**

### **✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

## Closing Hymn

### *Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## ***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.*

*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](mailto:kjones8022@aol.com) to participate. The day and time will be set by those who join.*