



March 12, 2023

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**

March 12, 2023
Third Sunday in Lent

Meditation

“When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen.”
Ernest Hemingway

Chimes

Prelude

I Will Sing Of Jesus's Love To Me
Gale Sterner, percussion

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn

How Deep the Father's Love

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Lifting up our Joys

March Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

O come, let us sing to our God and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

We lift our hearts and voices in joy and thanksgiving for being here together in the presence of our beloved God.

Come, let us worship this amazing God, for we belong to God.

We will listen for God's word and live in the hope it inspires.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Patient and ever-faithful God, we come to you this morning confessing that we can be a grumpy and unsatisfied people. When things are not perfect in our eyes, we murmur and complain, and grumble and doubt. We lose hope in the people around us and, even worse, we lose hope in you. We challenge instead of accept. We put you to the test rather than trust your caring love. Forgive our doubts and complaining. Forgive our loss of hope. Let your healing, life-giving waters pour over us. Restore our souls.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Our hope and assurance rest in God's unfailing love and forgiveness. Open your hearts and minds and souls that the healing waters of God's never-ending love and forgiveness may flow into and over you. Know that in this love and forgiveness you have encountered the living God. **Amen!**

Girl Scout Sunday Recognition

Bible Readings

Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:39-42

Choir Anthem

*Thy Will Be Done
Bill Miller, Solo*

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Pastor's Message

"The Power in Testimony"

Pastor Jeff

**Installation / Ordination for Steph Pacovsky to Consistory,
Ruth Gaston to Elder**

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

Ave Verum - Mozart

✝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.

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.

Holy God, you created this planet full of life and you created humans in your image. You taught our ancestors how to live in your world by giving them

challenges and the ability to face them. You brought them out of captivity in Egypt into fullness of life. You sent prophets to teach them. Most of all, you sent to us your child Jesus, who showed us through his loving example how you love us. And now you call us to follow in his footsteps, carrying your message of hope and justice to the world. Creating us in your image, you offered to us the challenges of living in your complex world. And so we join with all creation to praise you:

✠ Sanctus

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

Prayers of the People

Pastor Jeff

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

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.

✠ **Closing Hymn # 51** How Great Thou Art (vs. 1,3,4)

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art

And when I think of God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And lead me home what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow with humble adoration
And then proclaim my God how great Thou art

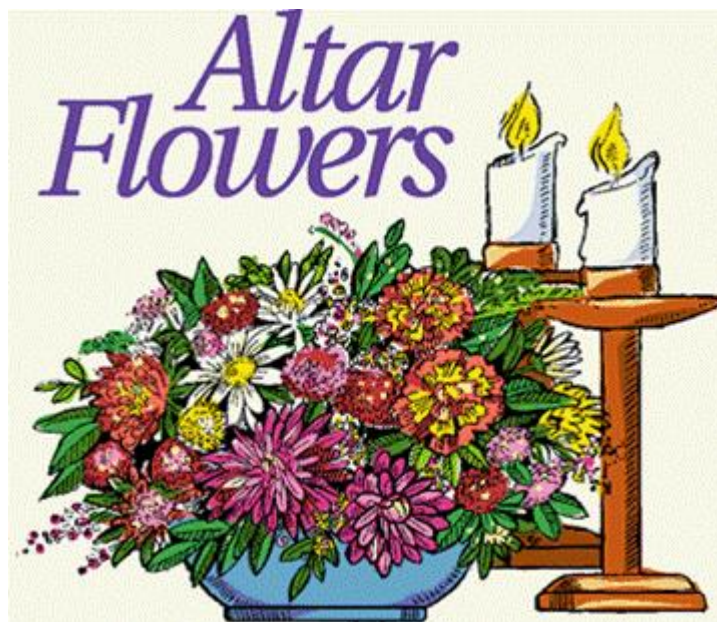
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art

✝ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✝ **Three-fold Amen**

✝ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude *Great are You Lord - Michael and Deborah Smith*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
In loving memory of our parents, John &
Geraldine Lundbye and James & Doris Hamilton,
Presented by Wayne & Lynda Hamilton*

