



March 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**

March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Meditation

“Go where your best prayers take you.” Frederick Buechner

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Opening Hymn *King of my Heart*
Gale Sterner- Percussion

1. Verse 1

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song

2. Chorus

You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh

3. Verse 2

Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song

4. Bridge

You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down

5. Ending

When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on

CCLI Song # 7046145

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Give thanks to God!

Proclaim God's goodness throughout all the world.

Let all of us, gathered here, celebrate God's absolute love.

Let us offer our lives in service to others.

Thanks be to God for the blessings which have been poured on us.

Lord, enable us to use our gifts to serve you in your world. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

A broken and contrite heart is the acceptable sacrifice to you, O God. And so we come before you today, as sinners in need of your mercy. Grant us your forgiveness, O God. Help us turn from our old ways. Lead us into newness of life, that our actions may be found pleasing in your sight. Amen. *Silent pause for reflection*

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

God has heard our cries. Turn again to the Lord. Find comfort and strength in God's eternal love for you. Be healed. **Amen!**
(the congregation may be seated)

Girl Scout Sunday Recognition

Bible Readings

Numbers 21: 4-9; John 3: 14-21

Michelle McNutt

Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

Today's Message

"Relationships That Matter"

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

Lift High The Cross

Chorus

Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name

Verse 1

Come brethren follow where our Savior trod
Our King victorious Christ the Son of God

Chorus

Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name

Verse 2

O Lord once lifted on the glorious tree
As Thou hast promised draw men unto Thee

Chorus

Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name

Verse 3

So shall our song of triumph ever be
Praise to the Crucified for victory

Chorus

Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness- J. S. Bach

LENT 2021 | Reflect. Repent. Restore.

Pastor Jeff will offer a Wednesday evening devotion and prayer time on Facebook live during lent (March 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.

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