



March 21, 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 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Meditation

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Aristotle

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Opening Hymn *Open The Eyes Of My Heart*

Gale Sterner- Percussion

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You (repeat)

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You (repeat)

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Our souls wait in silence;

our hope rests in God

our rock

our salvation

our refuge.

We will not be shaken.

In this time of worship,

All: ...we open ourselves to the love of God and filling our hearts calling us to serve.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task, requiring us to make a significant commitment of our lives. We hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. *Silent pause for reflection*

Amen

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and healed. **Thanks be to God!**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings *Jeremiah 31: 31-34; John 12: 20-33* Larry Kelly

Children's Message and Blessing Pastor Jeff

Today's Message *"We Wish to See Jesus"* Pastor Jeff

Hymn of Response *Power Of Your Love*

1. Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I found in You
And Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the pow'r of Your love

Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the pow'r of Your love

2. Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind

As Your will unfolds in my life
In living ev'ry day
By the pow'r of Your love

Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the pow'r of Your love

✠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

Near the Cross

Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross (Near The Cross)

1. Jesus keep me near the cross
There a precious fountain
Free to all a healing stream
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain

In the cross in the cross
Be my glory ever
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river

2. Near the cross-O Lamb of God
Bring its scenes before me
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadows o'er me

In the cross in the cross
Be my glory ever
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river

3. Near the cross I'll watch and wait
Hoping trusting ever
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river

In the cross in the cross
Be my glory ever
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river

Postlude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - arr. Diane Bish

LENT 2021 | Reflect. Repent. Restore.

Pastor Jeff will offer a Wednesday evening devotion and prayer time on Facebook live during lent (March 24th) 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)