



March 6, 2022

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 6, 2022

1st Sunday in Lent - Communion

Meditation

“Stay awake and pray that you will not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (*Jesus quoted in Matthew 26:41*)

Chimes

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr. William M. Felton

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Hymn

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Beneath the cross of Jesus

I gladly take my stand--

the shadow of a mighty Rock

within a weary land,

a home within the wilderness,

a rest upon the way,

from the burning of the noontide heat,

and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus

mine eye at times can see

the very dying form of One

who suffered there for me;

and from my smitten heart with tears

two wonders I confess-- the wonders of redeeming love

and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow

for my abiding place;

I ask no other sunshine than

the sunshine of his face,

content to let the world go by,

to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

Lifting up our Joys

March Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

For some of us, it was tempting to “sleep in” this morning.

But God has called us to this place, to hear God’s word, to open our hearts in prayer and praise, and to seek direction for our lives.

There are many temptations placed in front of us. We are called to be strong and place our trust in God.

All: God is always faithful to us, comforting, guiding, lifting us. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy Lord, as we enter this Lenten season, we are reminded of our weakness and our need for your strength. We ask your forgiveness when we succumb to the temptations of this world, when we tread paths that are contrary to your will. We ask your forgiveness when we fail to look beyond our own desires to see another’s need. We ask for your presence in our wilderness wanderings. May your hand guide us from the arid land of sin into a land flowing with milk and honey—a land made rich and abundant by your saving love.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, I assure all who repent of their sins, that your guilt is annulled and your freedom is granted through Christ our Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**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

Holy God, descend your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grape that they might mediate to us the presence of the living Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us so that we might be reflections of your likeness in a hurting world so that others might know the blessings of living in communion with you and one another. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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

"Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

✠ All who are able shall stand

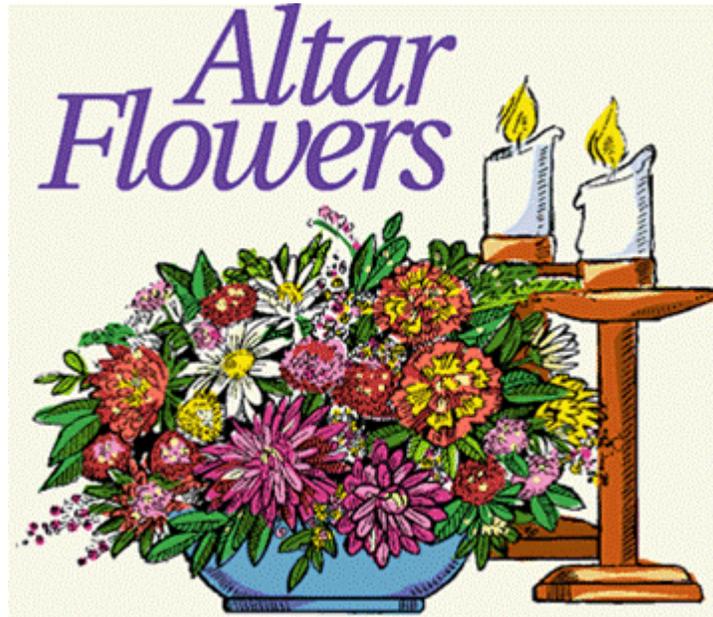
Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude *Chorus of Praise* *Randolph Johnson*



***The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in memory of his father Henry F. White, his
birthday would have been March 11th.
Presented by Hank White***

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson