

Third Sunday of Lent



March 7, 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**

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Gathering

Meditation

“If there isn’t a God nothing matters, but if there is a God nothing else matters”

H.G. Wells

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

When I Survey / The Wonderful Cross

Gale Sterner, percussion

Opening Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

“Come unto me and rest.

Lay down, O weary one,

lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was,

so weary, worn, and sad.

I found in him a resting place,

and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,

“Behold, I freely give

the living water, thirsty one;

stoop down and drink and live.”

I came to Jesus, and I drank

of that life-giving stream.

My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,

and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,

“I am the dawning light.

Look unto me, your morn shall rise,

and all your day be bright.”

I looked to Jesus, and I found

in him my star, my sun,

and in that light of life I’ll walk

till trav’ling days are done.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Before leading the slaves out of Egypt; before receiving God's commandments, Moses saw a burning bush and he took off his shoes, for he expected to be on holy ground.

We have come to worship with our shoes on and our minds distracted. How shall we find holiness?

As in Moses' time so also now, God always hears the cries of people and comes to be with them.

Our prayers are full of cries. How shall we know that God answers?

"I AM," God told Moses, and then God asked him for commitment.

In this time of worship may we recognize God's name and respond to God's call.

✠ Opening Prayer

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dear God, we are thankful for your love that knows no end. Once again, we come to you to acknowledge our sins and shortcomings. Touch us with your healing grace and release us from the guilt and burdens of the past. Be our guide and hope, we pray, as we experience the freedom to live as your faithful disciples in the days to come. Amen.

Silent pause for reflection

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

We have, indeed, received God's love and healing grace. We have been forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Exodus 20:1-17; John 2: 13-22

Tracey Holler

Children's Message and Blessing “*10 Commandments for Kids*”

Pastor Jeff

Today's Message “*A Guide to a Rich and Joyous Life*”

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.

Moment for Mission *One Great Hour of Sharing*

Kay Jones

✠ 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.

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** (*recited in Unisom*)

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

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

Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
3. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.
What He says we will do, where He sends, we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Postlude

Chorale - J.S. Bach

LENT 2021 | Reflect. Repent. Restore.

Pastor Jeff will offer a Wednesday evening devotion and prayer time on Facebook live during lent (Mar 10, and 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.
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