



April 18, 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**

April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter

Gathering

Meditation

“You cannot plough a field by turning it over in your mind.” Author Unknown

Chimes

Prelude/Opening Hymn *In Christ Alone* *Gale Sterner, percussion*

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Mission “*Strengthen the Church*” Offering Kay Jones

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ **Call to Worship** (Congregation reads bold print)

How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God’s love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Darkness cannot claim us!

Fear cannot bind us!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Amen!

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

O Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness’s we have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile, we rise with fear and shame as we hear you call our name. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored, compassionate, forgiving and ever caring Lord, grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.

[adapted from Hymn 371 “Our Father, We Have Wandered”]

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has showered mercy upon us all. In Christ's name, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Psalm 4, Luke 24:36-48

Sally Morgan

Children's Message and Blessing

(Children are dismissed to Sunday school)

Pastor's Message

"Party Crasher"

Installation of Consistory

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised; all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is an important part of it.

✠ Reading of the Church Covenant

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the Will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our for bearers, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

✠ 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

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

Closing Hymn

He Lives

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today

He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart

In all the world around me I see His loving care
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart

You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind
He lives, He lives Christ Jesus lives today

He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart

You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart

✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude *Forever- Hillsong*

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)