



April 19, 2020

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 19, 2020
Second Sunday of Easter

Gathering

Meditation

“At the beginning of time and at the end, you are God and I bless you. At my birth and in my dying, at the opening of the day and at its closing, in my waking and in my sleeping, you are God and I bless you. You are the first and the last, the giver of every gift, the presence without whom there would be no present, the life without whom there would be no life.” J. Philip Newell

Welcome and Sharing of the Good News of God’s work among us

Prelude Toccata in E Minor. Johann Pachelbel

Opening Hymn

Verse 1

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o’re death has won.

Angels in bright Raymond rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where
Thy body lay.

Chorus

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering son;
Endless is the victory thou o’re death has won.

Verse 2

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Chorus

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o’re death has won.

Verse 3

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without Thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to my home above.

Chorus

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o're death has won.

Opening Prayer

Dear ever-loving God, as the weeks continue and the numbers of those affected grow, we turn to You to give us protection and comfort. We know that your faithful people have passed through many trials in all the years of Christianity and that you have always been a steady, loving presence when they have called on You. So, we also call on you to hear our prayers.

Grant us the faith to know that whatever happens we cannot be separated from You. Grant us the faith to know that you are present, really present, in all the heroic efforts being made by so many. Guide us each to reach out to those in need if only by phone, or note or email. Help us to show our Christian love in any way we can in this time of trial.

We ask this in the name of your beloved Son. Amen

Prayer of Confession

Each of us believes that God already knows our sins and that He will forgive them if we come to Him and confess our and repent of our sins. Let us now take silent time to review our week and see where we have done wrong or not done the good that we could have done and confess to the Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is God's gift to us and the world so that we can know abundant life.

Bible Readings *Psalms 16* *John 20: 24-29* Jamie Barton

Children's Message and Blessing The Machamer Family

Today's Message *"This much I know is true"* Kay Jones

Statement of Faith: Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ. His only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into Heaven, and is seated

In the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy universal Church,

The communion of Saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the People

Dear Lord: we come to you today with much on our hearts. We are weary of the constraints the pandemic has put upon us. We miss our friends, family and congregation. We are fearful for ourselves and others. We are anxious of what the new normal might be when we start to return to community. We know there are many, who through no fault of their own, have lost jobs and businesses. So much to deal with dear God.

But we have also seen your face in the great acts of heroism and charity of those responding to this pandemic. We pray for them today: the health care workers, the emergency workers, the grocery store clerks, the truckers, there are so many who

have risked much for the rest of us. We pray for them all. We also pray for wisdom for our leaders. That they may put aside all that is distracting and focus clearly on the enormous tasks ahead for them and for us. We pray for the students who are now all being taught in unfamiliar ways that they may learn what they need. We pray for their teachers. And we pray for the classes graduating from high school and colleges with no acknowledgment and into an uncertain world. All this we pray with the fervent knowledge that you will hear us as we pray. So, let us all join in the prayer that our Savior taught us to pray:

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

Now go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And may the Lord bless you and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you. May He lift up His countenance and give you peace. Amen.

***Blessings to you from St. John's United Church of Christ in
Orwigsburg.***