



April 25, 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 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

Meditation

“What a grand thing, to be loved! What a grander thing still, to love!” Victor Hugo

Chimes

Prelude/Opening Hymn

Borning Cry

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off

To find where demons' dwell.
When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
To whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise.
Final chorus

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.

Welcome and Announcements

Lifting up our Joys

Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

What a joy it is to welcome you this day!

We are grateful and happy to be here.

Christ, the Good Shepherd, invites you to walk with him.

We accept that invitation, confident in his guidance.

Be ready to serve the Lord in all that you do, for his love has been poured upon you.

Open our hearts and spirits this day, Lord, to receive your holy words and to be challenged in our service to you. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of life and death, we confess that sometimes we are not alive to the possibilities you offer. In the midst of pain, unfairness, and fear, we find little reason for hope. We feel despair or blame others, but we do not turn to you for help. Forgive us and show us how to share the new life you offer, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

God dwells among us, giving to all who believe the repentance that leads to life.
Rejoice in the Lord, for we are a forgiven people. **Thanks be to God!**
(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Psalm 23, 1 John 3: 16-24

Judy Miller

The Sacrament of Baptism for Grace Elizabeth Kramer

Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells
me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.” Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

All: Give to Grace, strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

(Following the Baptism, children will be dismissed to Sunday school)



The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God,
in honor of Grace Elizabeth Kramer and her Baptism,
Presented by her Grandparents,
Tom and Sue Kramer



✠ 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

Take My Life and Let it Be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Jesus Priceless Treasure - JS Bach

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.

Bible Study starts next week by email: Max Lucado's book "When God whispers your name" Anyone interested can call Kay at 570-366-1333.

