

April 3, 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

April 3, 2022

5th Sunday in Lent - Communion

Meditation

“Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier.” Mother Teresa

Chimes

Prelude

*One Bread One Body - John Foley
Gale Sterner, percussion*

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn

This is Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross

You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Verse 2

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?
The King of glory, the King of glory
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross

You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Lifting up our Joys

April Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

Come and let us worship with great joy!

Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

God is about to do something new in our lives!

Let God's will become strong in our lives. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, Source of New Life, you promise to set us free from paths of fear, doubt, and denial.

Yet we resist your invitation, seeing only what we must give up if we are to follow the path of Jesus.

You call us to have faith in your sustaining presence and power, but your call takes us beyond anything we can see or touch.

We fear placing our trust in things beyond our control.

We doubt that you can bring water to the dry places of our lives or replace our suffering with joy.

Forgive us when we turn away from your promise of abundant life.

Heal us and lead us home, O God.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Whenever we seek to leave behind our old ways and turn to God for help, God forgives our faithlessness and strengthens us for the journey ahead. We are the heirs of God's promises. We are the children of God's compassion and mercy. **Amen.**

Bible Readings *Isaiah 43: 16-21; Philippians 3:4-14* Lola & Mark Machamer

Children's Message Pastor Jeff

Choir Anthem *We Remember - Joel Raney*

Pastor's Message *"When We Don't Know God"* Pastor Jeff

✠ The Nicene Creed (*unison*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ 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.

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.

When there was nothing but your love, you shaped all that is beautiful and good; when there was nothing but your faith, you formed us from the dust, and breathed Spirit into our lungs; when there was nothing but your hope, you called us to be your people, Creator of all. But when we looked in the mirror which the world held before us, we saw only ourselves, our desires, our wisdom. We turned away from you, insisting on our own way, growing irritable and rebellious when you would not give in to us. Yet you did not leave us in the grasp of sin and death, trusting that if we met you face to face, we would turn to you in joy.

So today, believing that your Word has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, we join our voices with those who now know you fully, offering our songs of grateful praise:

✠ Sanctus (Sung)

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

Prayers of the People

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)*

By your Spirit, Lord, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Amen.

✠Closing Hymn

Let All Talents and Tongues Employ

Verse 1

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Verse 2

Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

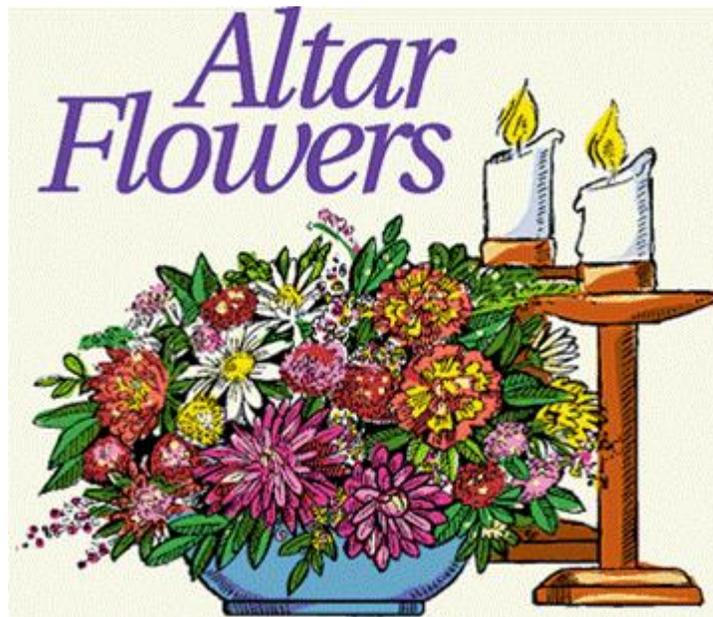
Verse 3

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude *Festal Prelude on 'O Worship the King' - Robert Lau*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in memory loved ones,
Presented by Bob & Paulette Peters*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson