

There is neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither slave nor free,
nor is there male and female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28



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May 15, 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**

May 15, 2022
5th Sunday of Easter

Meditation

“If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.” - Vance Havner

Chimes

Prelude

Thy Word - Michael W. Smith

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn No. 94 *Shout to the Lord*

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have
In You

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All of my days I want to praise
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I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have
Oh nothing compares to the promise I have
Nothing compares to the promise I have
In You

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Let praise to God resound in the heavens!

Let praise to God fill the earth!

Let all God's angels offer praise and rejoicing!

Let all God's creatures sing praise and joy!

Open your hearts and spirits today.

Let us praise the Lord today and always! Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

O Lord our God, you know us completely. You see us as we really are. You see our hopes and dreams. You see our fears, our anger, our shortcomings. And yet, you love us unconditionally. May this love empower us to deal with and to move past the barriers within us that keep us from being the people you wish us to be. Free us from the bondage of sin and self-centeredness that we may we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our God.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness *(read responsively)*

“The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and full of unfailing love.” In Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Psalm 148, Acts 11:1-9

Lorraine Jones

Choir Anthem

We Are Called

Children’s Message

Pastor Jeff

Pastor’s Message *“On God’s Side or In God’s Way”*

Pastor Jeff

✠ The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(From the UCC Book of Worship)*

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.

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

✠Closing Hymn No. 595 *They'll Know We are Christians*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
We will with each other; we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Threefold Amen (sung)**

Chimes/Meditation

Postlude *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken - Franz Joseph Haydn*

Acolyte: Sophia Spolski

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson