



May 16, 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**

May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Gathering

Meditation

“Praise and thanksgiving will always set us free from our troubles even if circumstances don’t change.” Tim Storey

Chimes

Prelude

Daniel Young, Organ

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say I am strong,
Let the poor say I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say I am strong,
Let the poor say I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks!

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Shout to God with songs of great joy!

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

God has made us whole.

God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.

Come, let us celebrate the love of God!

Let us praise God's name and serve God joyfully. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, guide and sustain us. Hear our prayers this day, hear our prayers this day. We know the many ways in which we have failed to do the tasks which you have set before us. Our fears and doubts lay claim to our lives and we shrink from the opportunities you give to us. Forgive us for the many shortcomings. Lift and restore us to your grace. Put our feet on the pathways of service, offering justice and peace to all. Heal us, O gracious One, for we ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Amen. *Silent pause for reflection*

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Rejoice! Do not doubt! God has poured love, hope and forgiveness on us all. We are healed and forgiven in Jesus' Name. Rejoice! **Amen.**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings *Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23* Michelle Sterner-McNutt

Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

(Children will be dismissed to Sunday school)

Pastor's Message

"How Could We Forget"

✠The Apostles 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.

(the congregation may be seated)

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

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Wonderful Grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it,
Where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free;
O the Wonderful Grace of Jesus reaches me!

Refrain

Wonderful the matchless Grace of Jesus,
the matchless Grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
the rolling sea;
Wonderful Grace, all sufficient for me, for even
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All sufficient Grace for even me.
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
sing it!

Greater far than all my sin and shame
my sin and shame,
O magnify the precious name of Jesus,
PRAISE HIS NAME!

Wonderful Grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost;
By it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost.
Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty;
O the Wonderful Grace of Jesus, reaches me!

Refrain

Wonderful the matchless Grace of Jesus,
the matchless Grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
the rolling sea;
Wonderful Grace, all sufficient for me, for even me
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All sufficient Grace for even me.
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
sing it!

Greater far than all my sin and shame
my sin and shame,
O magnify the precious name of Jesus,
PRAISE HIS NAME!

Wonderful Grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled;
By its transforming power,
Making me God's dear child,
Purchasing peace and Heaven, for all eternity;
And the Wonderful Grace of Jesus, reaches me!

Refrain

Wonderful the matchless Grace of Jesus,
the matchless Grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
the rolling sea;

Wonderful Grace, all sufficient for me, for even me
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All sufficient Grace for even me.

Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
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Greater far than all my sin and shame
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PRAISE HIS NAME!

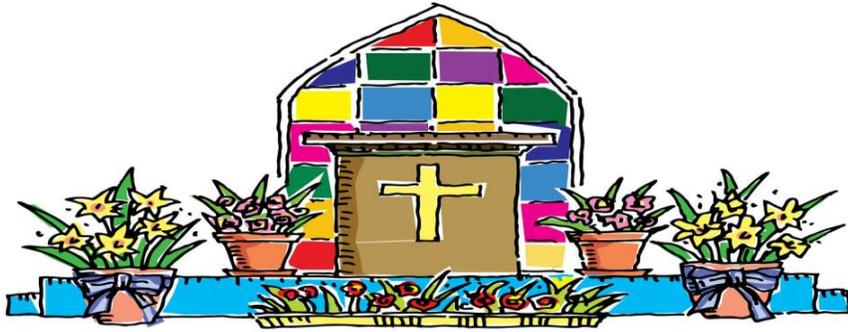
✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Daniel Young, Organ

Thank you to Daniel Young for playing today.



ALTAR FLOWERS

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
In Memory of Edith M. Fisher,
who was Treasurer at St. John's for some years.
Presented by Ben Fisher*

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 has started by email: Max Lucado's book "When God whispers your name" Anyone interested can call Kay at 570-366-1333.

