



May 17, 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**

May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

Meditation

"O God, thy sea is so great and my boat is so small." Breton fisherman's' prayer.

Prelude

Deep River - arr. Mark Hayes
Christopher Holler, saxophone

Opening Hymn

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

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

Opening Prayer

Dear Ever-loving God, we come to you today in this time of trial with hearts filled with faith and hope and love. Help us to find ways to bring Your love to others in new ways as we are challenged to change our lives and routines so radically. Help us to use this unexpected time to grow stronger in our faith. Let us feel your presence in each day. Let us take time to rejoice in the rebirth of the earth all around us. Let us know you as the source of comfort, and wonder, and joy in these days. Amen

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, we know that You know all that is in our hearts and minds. We come to You knowing that we have but to ask for you forgiveness and repent of our sins to receive Your healing grace. We ask that from You now as we confess our sins. Let us now take silent time to review our week and remember where we have done wrong or have not done the good, we should have done and confess in our hearts 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 *Romans 15: 5-6* *John 16:32-33* Tracey Holler

Children's Message and Blessing Michelle Sterner McNutt

Today's Message *Endurance* Kay Jones

UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Kay Jones

Lord's Prayer (*unison*) ("*debts*" and "*debtors*")

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.**

Please be seated.

Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ *All who are able shall stand*

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

