

## **“THE RIGHT CONNECTION”**

**May 2, 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 2, 2021**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

*“With God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26*

### **Chimes**

### **Prelude**

*Spirit of the Living God - Daniel Iverson*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Opening Hymn**

*O Come to Me, the Master Said*

O come to me the Master said  
My Father knows your need  
And I shall be the Master said  
Your bread of life indeed  
By faith in Him we live and grow  
And share the broken bread  
And all His love and goodness know  
For so the Master said

Abide in me the Master said  
The true and living vine  
My life shall be the Master said  
Poured out for you as wine  
His body to the cross He gave  
His blood He freely shed  
Who came in love to seek and save  
For so the Master said

Believe in Me the Master said  
For I have called you friends  
And yours shall be the Master said  
The life that never ends  
And so with sin and sorrow past  
When death itself is dead  
The Lord shall raise us up at last  
For so the Master said

## Lifting up our Joys

### Passing of the Peace

#### ✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

**Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord is God!

**It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

**Give thanks to him, bless his name!**

For the Lord is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

[Psalm 100]

#### ✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

#### ✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

#### ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. **Amen!** (*Ephesians 2:8*)

*(the congregation may be seated)*

#### Bible Readings

*Isaiah 5: 1-7, John 15: 1-8*

Dr. Bob Peters

# Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

*(Children will be dismissed to Sunday school)*

## Pastor's Message

“The Right Connection”

### ✠Statement of Faith - The Nicene Creed

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.**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

### ✠ Invitation to the Table

### ✠ Communion Prayer

Pastor Jeff

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church to do your work in the world and to proclaim the gift of eternal life. Baptized by your Spirit into one body, we testify to your faithfulness toward those of every time nation, people, and language.

And so we join our voices with all creation to praise you saying:

### ✠ Sanctus *(recited)*

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

Pastor Jeff

Lord God, you welcome us, emptied of pride and hungry for grace, to this your kingdom feast. Nowhere can we find the food for which our souls cry out but here, Lord at your table. Invigorate and nourish us that in and through this bread and cup your love may meet us and your life complete us in the power and glory of your kingdom. 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**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

## Partaking of 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)*

**Holy God, may this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us to join more fully with you and with each other in your work of bringing the love of Christ to all. Amen.**

*(congregation may be seated)*

## **Closing Hymn**

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

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!

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!

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**

*To God Be the Glory - arr. Richard Wagner*



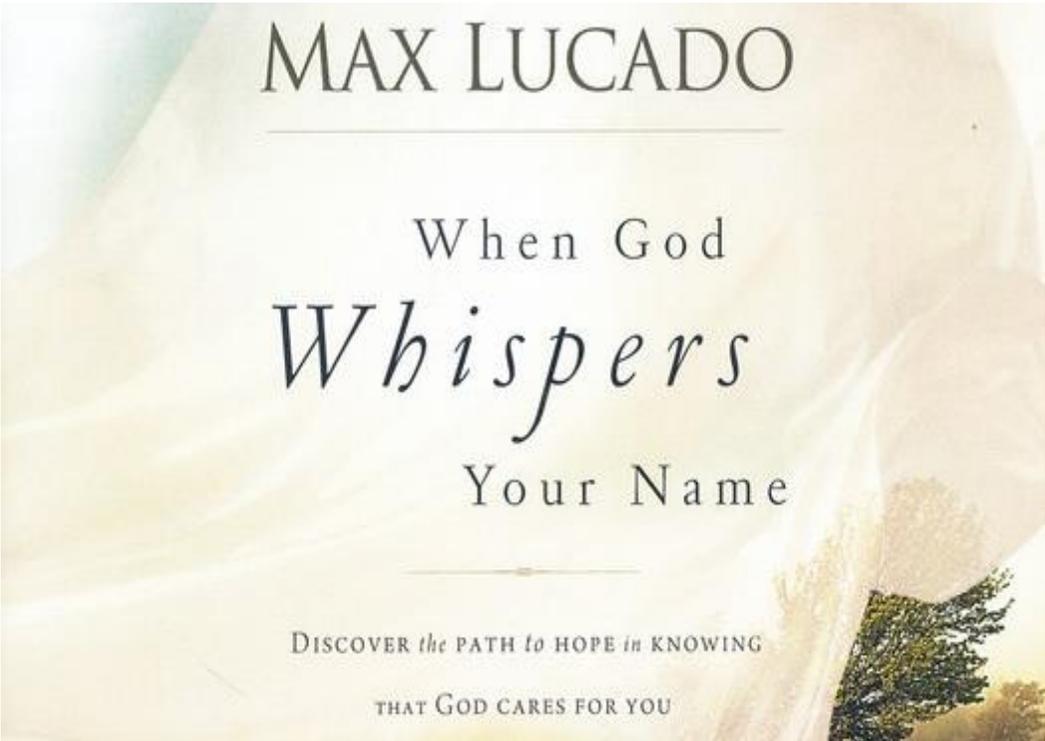
*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
In Memory of their parents, Harry & Dorothy Moore &  
Edward & Margaret Shay,  
Presented by Dave and Christine Moore*

*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.*



MAX LUCADO

When God  
*Whispers*  
Your Name

DISCOVER *the* PATH to HOPE in KNOWING  
THAT GOD CARES FOR YOU