



May 24, 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 24, 2020**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

*“As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as an excuse for doing wrong”*

*I Peter 2:16*

**Prelude**      *Tribute to the Armed Services* - arr. Lloyd Larson  
Gale Sterner, Percussion

**Opening Hymn**      *Battle Hymn of the Republic*      Gale Sterner, Percussion

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword  
His truth is marching on, His truth is marching  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me  
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free  
While God is marching on  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!  
His truth is marching on! And on and on and on and on and on

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

## **Opening Prayer**

“Even though we can’t worship together as a congregation, in our church, we gather in the presence of You Lord, our creator who sets before us the ways of life and death. And while we gather separately, we gather in the presence of Jesus Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we may know joy. As we worship from our homes, we gather in the presence of the Holy Spirit who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

In our living and in our dying we belong to God. Be it in our homes, or in our church, we sing for joy in the shadow of God’s wings and in a chorus with all creation. Let us worship God!”

## **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 13: 1-10 Mark 12: 28-34*

Kay Jones

## **Children’s Message and Blessing**

Jen Stone

## **Today’s Message**

*“Ethically Speaking”*

Jamie Barton

## **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**

**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**

**Closing Hymn**    *Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones* - arr. Keith Christopher  
Aly & Trena Murphy, Alison & Tracey Holler, vocals



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