



**May 7, 2023**

**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 7, 2023**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Meditation**

“If you want things to be different, perhaps the answer is to become different yourself.” Norman Vincent Peale

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*That's the Heart of God*  
*Gale Sterner, percussion*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**✝ Opening Hymn #442** *'Tis so Sweet to Trust In Jesus*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to take him at his Word  
Just to rest upon his promise  
Just to know, “Thus saith the Lord”

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus  
Oh, for grace to trust him more

O how sweet to trust in Jesus  
just to trust his cleansing blood  
Just in simple faith to plunge me  
‘neath the healing, cleansing flood

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus  
Oh, for grace to trust him more

Yes, ‘tis sweet to trust in Jesus  
just from sin and self to cease  
just from Jesus simply taking

life and rest and joy and peace

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus  
Oh, for grace to trust him more

I'm so glad I learned to trust him  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend  
And I know that he is with me  
Will be with me to the end

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus  
Oh, for grace to trust him more

## Lifting up our Joys

## May Birthday Blessings

## Passing of the Peace

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

God is our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

**Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.**

We need not fear.

**In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.**

Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

**Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you.**

### ✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

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

**Lord of abiding love and infinite patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let**

events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' name.

*Silent pause for reflection*      **Amen.**

### ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Hallelujah!**

### Bible Readings

*Psalms 31: 1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14*      *Lola Machamer, Lorraine Jones*

### Choir Anthem

*Standing in the Need of Prayer*

### Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

### Pastor's Message

*"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled"*

Pastor Jeff

### ✠ The Nicene Creed *(unison)*

**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

**Offertory**                      *There's a Quiet Understanding*

### ✠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.

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

✠Communion Hymn #695 *As We Gather at Your Table*

As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.

### ✠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 in song:

## ✠ Sanctus

**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

## Prayers of the People

Pastor Jeff

### 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. Come, for all things are ready.

### Sharing 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.**

### ✠Closing Hymn #468

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me  
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;

I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

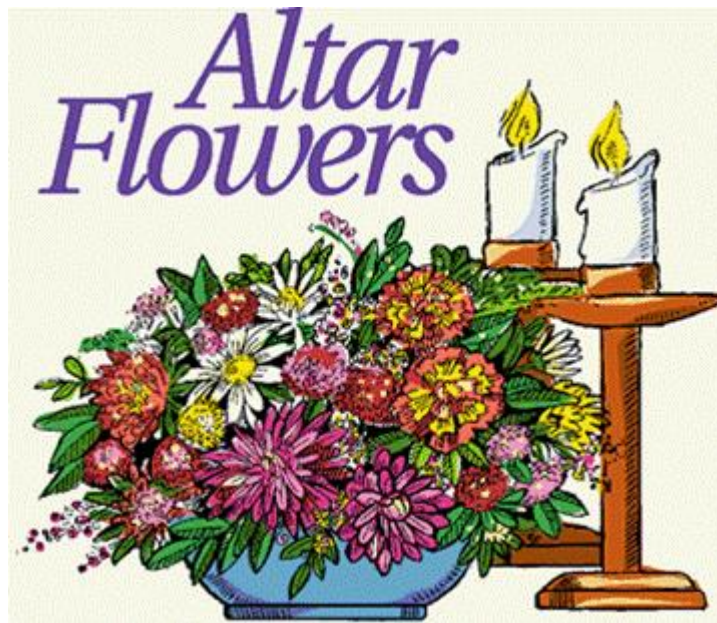
✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

✠ **Three-fold Amen**

**Postlude**

*Praeludium in C Major - J S Bach*



***The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
In memory of Ray Gaston.  
Presented by wife Ruth.***



