



May 8, 2022

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**

Verse 3

I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

We praise you, God, who loves us like a mother and a father.

We thank you for sending us your only Son.

You have loved us and called us your children

Christ has called us brothers and sisters.

For whoever does the will of God,

Is part of the family of Jesus.

Come, let us worship our God

Our Creator, our Parent, the One who loves us most! Amen!

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Forgive us and cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may love and serve you with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness *(read responsively)*

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. In Christ's name, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Proverbs 2:1-11, Acts 9:36-43

Dr Bob Peters

Choir Anthem

Just For You - Robert Lau

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bell Anthem

Power of the Cross- arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Pastor's Message

"A Caring Woman"

Pastor Jeff

✠ The Apostle's 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.

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

Here I am, Lord

Verse 1

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Verse 2

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Verse 3

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

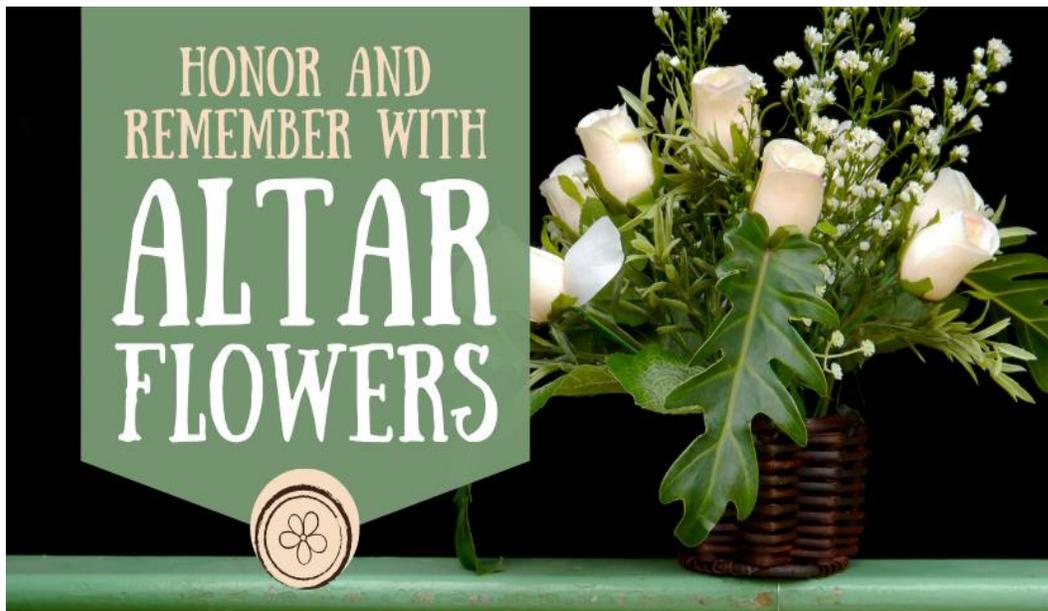
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude *How Can I Keep From Singing - Robert Lowry*



*The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God,
In honor of Hannah, Polly, Beck, & Alfred
Smith.*

Presented by Tim & Elaine Deitzler

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson