



**May 9, 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 9, 2021**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother's Day**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

“Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.”

Unknown

### **Chimes**

**Prelude**     *Where the Spirit of the Lord is - Stephen Adams*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Hymn**                     *The Gift Of Love*

Though I may speak with bravest fire  
And have the gift to all inspire  
And have not love my words are vain  
As sounding brass and hopeless gain

Though I may give all I possess  
And striving so my love profess  
But not be given by love within  
The profit soon turns strangely thin

Come Spirit come our hearts control  
Our spirits long to be made whole  
Let inward love guide every deed  
By this we worship and are freed

### **Lifting up our Joys**

### **Passing of the Peace**

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

The Lord is our refuge.

**We can find peace in God's abiding love.**

When troubles assail us, we call upon the Lord.

**When joys abound, we call upon the Lord.**

Welcome this day to God's house, one of many dwellings of the Almighty One.

**We thank you and praise God for his refuge and sanctuary. Amen.**

## ✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

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

**Patient and forgiving God, we thank you for the many blessings we receive from the Mother's and others in our lives. Give us the confident faith that reaches beyond our own lives to help others. Forgive us when we sink into our own selfishness and pettiness. For it is in those times that we turn our back on you. Bring us back to you, to the awareness of your eternal love. In Christ's Name, we pray.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

## ✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Christ, our cornerstone and our salvation, offers to us hope and comfort. On this Mother's Day, help us to make our home in you. **Amen.**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

## **Bible Readings**

*Jeremiah 17:7-8; John 15:9-17*

Alison Holler

## **Children's Message and Blessing**

Pastor Jeff

*(Children will be dismissed to Sunday school)*

## **Pastor's Message**

*"Love and Happiness"*

## ✠The Apostles 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.**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

## 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

### *Love Divine All Love Excelling*

Love divine all loves excelling  
Joy of heaven to earth come down  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling  
All Thy faithful mercies crown  
Jesus Thou art all compassion  
Pure unbounded love Thou art  
Visit us with Thy salvation  
Enter every trembling heart

Breathe O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast  
Let us all in Thee inherit  
Let us find Thy promised rest  
Take away the love of sinning  
Alpha and Omega be  
End of faith as its beginning  
Set our hearts at liberty

Come Almighty to deliver  
Let us all Thy grace receive  
Suddenly return and never  
Never more Thy temples leave  
Thee we would be always blessing  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing  
Glory in Thy perfect love

Finish then Thy new creation  
Pure and spotless let us be  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till in heaven we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee  
Lost in wonder love and praise

✝ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✝ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude      *Crown Him With Many Crowns - George Elvery*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
In Memory of Polly, Hannah & Alfred Smith, Elaine's uncle Alfred was killed in  
WWII on Mother's Day,  
Presented by Tim & Elaine Deitzler*

## ***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 has started by email: Max Lucado's book "When God whispers your name" Anyone interested can call Kay at 570-366-1333.*

