



*Faith* SMALL AS A  
MUSTARD SEED

**June 13, 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**

**June 13, 2021**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Meditation**

*“I think faith is the small mustard seed of opportunities every day. For example, 'Am I going to love this person? Am I going to share my faith with this person? Am I going to pray that little prayer?' It really is a daily thing where you seize those little mustard seed opportunities and then see what God does.” - Mark Batterson*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **✠ Opening Hymn**

*“How Great Thou Art”*

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Chorus:

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Chorus:

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
And then proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!”

Chorus:

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

## **Lifting up our Joys**

### **Recognition of Graduates**

**Today we honor all of our recent high school and college graduates!**

**Jack Barton  
Alison Holler  
Randy Oswald**

**Emily Daniels  
Andrew Johnson  
Troy Oswald**

## **Passing of the Peace**

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

A new day has dawned. God's gift of life is renewed in you and me.

**Praise God for today! Praise God for the creative spirit in our midst.**

Be still and know that God is here. Let the Spirit in.

**We are ready to pray and think and rejoice. We are ready to hear God's word.**

Then listen and respond to God, who meets us in new ways and in different sounds, today in worship, and every day in the world.

**Come to us, O God, and guide our worship. Speak. Speak to us the Word we need, and let that Word change us and empower us to be your people. We are listening!**

## **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

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

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.**

*(Book of Common Worship, Louisville: Westminster/John Know Press, 1993)*

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to get angry and full of unfailing love. In Christ's Name, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!** (*from Psalm 103:8*)

## **Bible Readings**

*Ezekiel 17: 22-24; Mark 4: 26-34*

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

Pastor Jeff

## **The Mustard Seed Song**

Led by Trena

## **Pastor's Message**

*"The Mighty Mustard Seed"*

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**

#### *"Hymn of Promise"*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

## ✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

### **Postlude**

*Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson*

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