



**July 19, 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**

**July 19, 2020**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

*In this great River of Life that flows behind me and before me, let me know that I am carried by you.*

*In this great River of Life that flows around me and through me, let me know that I carry you and can reverence you in all that has life.*

*Sounds of the Eternal: J. Phillip Newell*

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*Sanctuary*

John Thompson

### **Opening Hymn**

*How Great Thou Art*

Bill Miller

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  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And lead me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow with humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

## Lifting up our Joys

### Passing of the Peace

#### ✠ Call to Worship: Psalm 139: 1-6, 23-24

Leader: You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

**People: You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

Leader: You discern my going out and my lying down, you are familiar with all my ways.

**People: Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.**

Leader: You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

**All: Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

#### ✠ Opening Prayer

Dear Father: We come to you this morning exhausted from the many weeks of dealing with Covid 19 and its restrictions. We come to you with distress over the unrest in our country and the world. There is much weight on our shoulders as we are forced to live in a world, we could not imagine six months ago. We are separated from loved ones. We are uncertain and worried about the future. Help us to remember that we are Christians always, no matter what the circumstances and that your son has called on us to be compassionate and generous. Help us to find a peaceful center in your presence. Help us to seek you out in prayer. Help us to look for ways we can bring comfort and love to others. Help us to be the followers of Jesus this and all days. Amen.

## ✠Prayer of Confession

**Dear Lord:** as our psalm this morning tells us, you know us and everything about us. We cannot hide from you. Yet despite all our failings and imperfections, you love us as your children. You are quick to forgive and slow to anger. We pray that you will lead us to everlasting life. And so this morning we will search our hearts for what we have done wrong this week and the good that we have left undone. We will offer them to you with a firm promise of repentance and pray for your forgiveness. Let us take a moment to recall the ways this week we have fallen short of the life that Jesus has asked us to live.

## ✠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.

<b>Bible Readings</b>	<i>Psalm 139 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43</i>	Larry Kelly
<b>Children's Message and Blessing</b>	<i>Rivers</i>	Kay Jones
<b>Special Music</b>	<i>Be Still and Know</i>	Bill Miller
<b>Today's Message</b>	<i>Peace Like a River</i>	Kay Jones

## ✠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

**Prayer of Our Savior** (*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**

## ✠ Giving our Gifts to God

Each Sunday we are given the opportunity to present our gifts to God as a congregation. These can be gifts of money, certainly, but we should also be thinking about the gifts of time, talent as well as treasure that we offer to God every day of our lives. I invite you to think this week about the time and talent you give to the Lord. Every small daily act of compassion is also offering a gift to God. Calling someone, letting someone in line ahead of you, reading to a child, all of these are also gifts we give to God. Collect these in your heart each night, remember them and offer them to the Lord. And now Dear Lord we bless all the gifts this congregation have offered to you this week. Gifts of time, talent and treasure. Amen

## ✠ Doxology (*recited*)

**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.**

## ✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

### Closing Song

*It is Well*

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well, with my soul  
It is well  
With my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul  
My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul  
It is well  
With my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul

***Worship Leader:***

***Kay Jones***

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