



**July 26, 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 26, 2020**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

*Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together.*  
Colossians 1: 17

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*Sicilienne - Gabriel Faure*

*Wenfei Yu, flute , Ally Murphy, piano*

### **Opening Hymn**

**Be Thou My Vision**

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light*

*Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun  
Heart of my own heart, whate'er befall  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all*

### **Lifting up our Joys**

### **Birthday Blessings**

## Passing of the Peace

### ✠ Call to Worship: (*Psalm 84*)

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.

**People: My soul longs, yes, faints for your courts; My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O God of hosts, my ruler and my God.

**People: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Leader: O Lord of hosts, hear our prayer. Give ear, O God of Jacob.

**People: The Lord God is a sun and shield. Happy is everyone who trusts in God.**

### ✠ Opening Prayer

#### ✠ Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and amazing God, Creator and savior of the world,  
we confess our sin and failure to live as you have taught us.**

**We tolerate hatred, violence, and injustice in the world.**

**We cling to the security and comforts that money can buy.**

**We desire improvement but resist change.**

**Forgive us and renew a right spirit within us so that we may live as  
your children through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*(Silent pause for reflection)*

#### ✠ 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.

### Bible Readings

*Psalm 142; Luke 18: 1-14*

Barb Skelding

### Children's Message and Blessing

Jamie Barton

## Special Music

*Bell Duo Fanfare*

*Wenfei Yu, Ally Murphy*

## Today's Message

*"Pray Always"*

Jamie Barton

## ✠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

#### ✠ 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

*Well Done - Ally Murphy, solo*

### *Worship Leader:*

*Jamie Barton*

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