



July 4, 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**

July 4, 2021

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

Chimes

Prelude

“God Bless America”

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

“His Strength Is Perfect”

His strength is perfect when our strength is gone;
he'll carry us when we can't carry on.
Raised in his power, the weak become strong;
his strength is perfect, his strength is perfect.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Lord, come into our hearts today.

Heal us from all our pain.

Lord, come into our lives today.

Bring us hope and peace.

Come, let us worship God who brings hope and peace.

All: Praise be to God for God's healing mercies. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

For those of us whose hearts are troubled, or spirits crushed by sin or circumstance, Good Lord, deliver us. Bring healing and wholeness of mind,

who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Giving our Gifts to God

Choir Anthem *“God Bless the U.S.A.”* *Lee Greenwood*

†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)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

† Invitation to the Table

† Communion Prayer

Pastor Jeff

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is with deep gratitude that we remember your great love shown to us and to all of your creation. We remember the Old Testament story of how you brought your people Israel to freedom from bondage out of Egypt and into a new and bountiful land. A new beginning it was! And even more so, we thank you for coming to us in Jesus Christ to show us again your life-changing love and to call us to serve this world for whom Christ gave the ultimate sacrifice. As we give thanks for your salvation given to us in Christ, we recommit to sharing your good news with

everyone. With your whole church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name:

✠ **Sanctus** (*sung*)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

(the congregation may be seated)

Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Blessing of the Elements

Pastor Jeff

God of all power, send your Holy Spirit upon us, that in sharing the bread we may share in the body of Christ, that in sharing the cup we may share in his blood. Grant that, being joined together in Christ Jesus, we may become united in faith and in all things become mature in the one who is our head. 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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

Partaking of the Elements

Take and eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

Holy God, thank you for your love which lifts us, your presence which fills us and your life which empowers us to be your people. Amen.

†Closing Hymn “America the Beautiful”

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

†Sending Forth and Final Blessing

†Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Variations on America

Charles Ives



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
in memory of Jay Rutter by his wife Claire and
son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Jody Rutter.*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson

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