

making the  

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MOST  

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of life

August 15, 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**

**August 15, 2021**

**12th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Meditation**

“Wisdom is seeing life through the eyes of God and living life in the will of God.”

James Merritt

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

Lamb of God Medley - arr. Mark Hayes

**Welcome and Announcements**

**✝ Opening Hymn**      10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

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

As we gather in this sacred moment for a sacred purpose, let us make the most of our time together.

**We have come to worship the Lord our God.**

As we sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
let us make the most of our time together.

**We have come to worship the Lord our God.**

As we respond to the melody in our hearts,  
let us make the most of our time together.

**We have come to worship the Lord our God.**

### ✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

### ✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Dear God, we take this time to think about our words, thoughts and deeds. We confess that we need a closer and deeper walk with you. We do not always seek to listen for your voice. We fail to see that we are always in your presence.**

**We seek the easier path of life that takes us away from your love and truth.**

**Fill us with your Holy Spirit today that we might live more closely to your will and plan. Help us to discern your wisdom and to make better use of the**

**incredible gift of life you have given us. *Silent pause for reflection***

**Amen.**

## ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

In God's wisdom and compassion we receive grace that we might live more fully into God's purpose and truth. We give thanks to God who lifts us up with the gift of forgiveness. **Amen.**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

**Bible Readings**      *Psalm 111; Ephesians 5: 15-20*      Michelle Sterner-McNutt

**Children's Message and Blessing**      Pastor Jeff

**Pastor's Message**      *"Making the Most of Life"*      Pastor Jeff

## ✠ 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

**Offering Music -**      Be Thou My Vision - arr. Michael Card  
Bill Miller, solo

## ✠ 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      My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

### Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the sold Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

### Verse 2

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ the sold Rock, I Stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

### Verse 3

When he shall come with the trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in him be found,  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ the solid Rock, I Stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

**Postlude**      Toccata in F - Buxtehude



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
in loving memory of son Craig,  
Presented by Ruthann & Mo.*

*Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson*

