



August 16, 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**

**August 16, 2020**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

For you alone, O God, my soul waits in silence, for my hope is in you.  
Psalm 62:5

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*Words* - Hawk Nelson

### **Opening Hymn**

*Thy Word*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid

Think I've lost my way

Still you're there right beside me

And nothing will I fear

As long as you are near

Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

I will not forget

Your love for me and yet

My heart forever is wandering

Jesus be my guide

And hold me to your side

I will love you to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

And a light unto my path

You're the light unto my path

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

### ✠ Call to Worship Psalm 133:1. Psalm 67 1-5

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**People: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.**

Leader: May your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

### ✠ Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we seek your loving peace as come together as a congregation this Sunday morning. We know that we have been called by Jesus to be peacemakers. Help us to find that peace that passes all understanding as we face this chaotic world. Help us to be bearers of light and peace to ourselves, our families, our community and the world. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen

## ✠Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

**All:** Dear Lord we realize that we sometimes reflect the anxiety and chaos of these times with words of anger. We feel helpless and confused. We seek to reflect the peace that Jesus asked us to bring to the world as peacemakers yet we find ourselves lashing out at the “others”. Help us to find patience with those we disagree with. Help us to truly love all people, even those we differ with as we have been commanded to do. As you are patient with us, help us to be patient with others.

**Leader:** 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. Let us recall the things we have done that were wrong and the good things we could have done that we left undone. *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**    *Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32; Matthew 15: 10-20*                      Bob Peters

**Children’s Message and Blessing**                      *Words*                                      Kay Jones

**Today’s Message**                      *May the words of our mouths.....*                                      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 treasure but we also offer God our gifts of time and talent every day of our lives. Every small daily act of compassion is also offering a gift 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**

### *Wonderful Words of Life*

Sing them over again to me  
Wonderful words of life  
Let me more of their beauty see  
Wonderful words of life  
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty  
Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life  
Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life

Sweetly echo the Gospel call  
Wonderful words of life  
Offer pardon and peace to all  
Wonderful words of life  
Jesus, only Saviour, sanctifying forever  
Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life  
Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life

***Worship Leader:***

***Kay Jones***

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