



August 2, 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 2, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

I thank you god for this amazing day
for the leaping greenly spirit of the trees
and a blue dream of a sky
and for everything which is natural
which is infinite
which is yes
e.e cummings

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Precious Lord Take My Hand

Daniel Young

Opening Hymn

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.*

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship: Psalm 145: 8-9; 14-17

Leader: The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

People: **The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.**

Leader: The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

People: **The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.**

Leader: You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

People: **The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.**

✠ Opening Prayer

Dear Lord: As we enter another week of an existence, we could not have dreamed of, remind us that we are coping. Remind us to breathe. Teach us to find the beauty of every day. Let us appreciate the slowness of pace that this pandemic has brought to many of us. Let us appreciate the joys of nature that are always there but we that may be too busy to see. Let us use this time to come closer to you. Let us pray more. Read scripture. Let us take time to appreciate all the blessings you have graciously given us throughout our lives. Whatever we will need to face in the future, help us to do so with full confidence that you are always with us. Amen.

✠Prayer of Confession

Dear God: How often we fail to live the life that Jesus has asked us to live. He gave us his life as an example of how to love and care for each other. Yet we so often focus only on ourselves, forgetting that we are also a part of the human family that God has created. We pass by acts of compassion that might make such a difference in someone else's life because we are too busy to see them. Help us to be more sensitive to the needs of others. Help us to be the people you call us to be.

Leader: Let us take a moment to recall the ways his 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.

✠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 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21* Chris Holler

Children's Message and Blessing *The 3 Ts* Kay Jones

Special Music *Toccata - Daniel Young, organ*

Today's Message *"Compassion"* 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

How Great Thou Art

*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
And when I think of God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in*

That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing

*He bled and died to take away my sin
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*

Worship Leader:

Kay Jones

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

Thank you to Daniel Young for playing the organ today.