



August 22, 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 22, 2021

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“I cannot imagine how religious persons can live satisfied without the practice of the presence of God.” Brother Lawrence

Chimes

Prelude

Daniel Young, Organ

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn

Baptized In Water

1 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.
2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.
3 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of one Father,
we are his children -
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

From the midst of our real lives with their very real problems

We come to seek courage and strength from the presence of God and the support of one another.

As persons who love imperfectly and are loved imperfectly

We come to be renewed by the perfect love of God proclaimed to the community of love and faith.

As people who never live up to our high calling in Jesus Christ

We come to be encouraged to do better.

ALL: May we learn to accept the joy and cost of following Jesus.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Since Christ died for us, we have peace with God to whom be praise and honor forever. **Thanks be to God!**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings *Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18; Ephesians 6:10-20* Dr. Bob Peters

The Sacrament of Baptism for Finnegan Brando Harner

Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells
me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.” Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

**All: Give to Finnegan, strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering,
the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus
Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

Pastor’s Message

“Beating the Stress Tests 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

Daniel Young, organ

✠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

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, Thus saith the Lord.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

2. O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me,
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,

Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

4. I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.



✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Daniel Young, organ



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
in honor of our Grandson Finnegan &
Granddaughter Sabrina
Presented by
Grandparents Larry & Leisha Hoffman.*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson