



August 23, 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 23, 2020**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

“Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so, you will live in the land, and enjoy security.”

Psalm 37: 1-3

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*Largo (Holy Art Thou) - Handel*

Judy Miller, organ

### **Opening Hymn**

*Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us  
Much we need Thy tender care  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us  
For our use Thy folds prepare

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are

We are Thine, who Thou befriend us  
Be the guardian of our way  
Keep Thy flock from sin defend us  
Seek us when we go astray

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus  
Hear Thy children when we pray  
Blessed Jesus, oh blessed Jesus  
Hear Thy children when we pray

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

### ✠Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd.  
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

**People: The Lord is our shepherd. We shall lack for nothing.**

Leader: Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. I know my own  
and my own know me.....and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

**People: The Lord is my shepherd. He restores my soul.**

Leader: Jesus said: “I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.  
I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.  
So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

**People: The Lord is our shepherd. Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow us all the days of our lives.**

### ✠Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather this morning as your humble and faithful servants, who like lost sheep tend to stray from Your light.

We ask for continued guidance Lord, as we sometimes replace honesty with greed and humility with self-righteousness. In essence, we replace the Word of God, with the word of man. Lord, shepherd us back into Your fold that we may know Your Word. Amen.

### ✠Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

**Our Lord and our God, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*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

*Isaiah 1: 10-17 ; Luke 15: 1-7*

Mark Machamer

### Children's Message and Blessing

#### Today's Message

*"Learn to do Good"*

Jamie Barton

## ✠ 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

#### ✠ 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

*Trust and Obey*

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.  
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.  
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;  
Never fear, only trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

*Trena would like to thank Judy Miller for playing for her today.*

***Worship Leader:***

***Jamie Barton***

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