



August 29, 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 29, 2021

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the [night] sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.” Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Chimes

Prelude

“Summer Breezes”

Walter Clark

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn *“O Master Let Me Walk With Thee”*

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret: help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me
the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience – still with thee in closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over
wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future’s broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

God has given us this day for praise!

Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

God has given his Son to us that we might learn ways of peace and mercy.

Let the words of God's own Son, Jesus, enter our hearts and transform our lives!

Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts reflect God's healing and restoring love. Amen.

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Dear God, you call us to live faithful lives, to turn from wickedness, to walk in your ways; yet it is so easy to turn aside, to speak a thoughtless word, to ignore those in need, to strike out in anger, to forget your ways. Forgive us. Implant your word in our hearts, and cleanse us from all evil. By the power of your love, save our souls, that we might faithfully serve you.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

God's word has the power to save our souls. God has anointed us with gladness. We are forgiven to live in joy. **Thanks be to God!**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings *Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9; Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Lorraine Jones

Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

Pastor's Message

"A Heart for God"

Pastor Jeff

✠ Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my hand and let them move at the impulse of thy love, at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee; take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King, always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for thee; take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

✠ The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (unison)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, 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.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

– taken from the UCC Book of Worship

(the congregation may be seated)

Giving our Gifts to God

Offering Music

“In Quiet Meditation”

Bertha Frick

✠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

“Just As I Am”

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fighting's and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude

“Chorus of Praise”

Randolph Johnston



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
In honor of Everett Miles,
Presented by Rick & Ellie Siegfried*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson