



August 30, 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 30, 2020**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

If you want to live the life that only you can live, do good for others and when you have done good, you will have life abundantly

John McQuiston

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*Shout to the Lord- Darlene Zschech*  
Gale Sterner, percussion

### **Opening Hymn**

*Lead Me to Calvary*

King of my life, I crown Thee now,  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.

Refrain

Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.  
May I be willing, Lord, to bear  
Daily my cross for Thee;  
Even Thy cup of grief to share,  
Thou hast borne all for me.

Refrain

Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.

**Lifting up our Joys**

**Birthday Blessings**

**Passing of the Peace**

**✠ Call to Worship** Psalm 105: 1-5

Leader: Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
People: make known among the nations what he has done.  
Leader: Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.  
People: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who  
seek the LORD rejoice.  
Leader: look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.  
People: remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the  
judgments he pronounced

**✠ Opening Prayer**

Dear Loving God: we come to You this week with gratitude and confusion and concern. Gratitude for all You have given us and continue to give us. Especially for the guidance of Your beloved Son who gave us the light and the way. Confusion about the chaotic world we are presently living in. Please help us to drown out the voices of fear and hate and replace them with confidence in Your love. And concern for those we love and all people that they may be safe and cared for throughout the world. Help us dear Lord to turn to You as our hope and our way. Amen

**✠ Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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**     *Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16: 21-28*     Bob Miller

**Children's Message and Blessing**     *Letters*     Kay Jones

**Today's Message**     *"Being Christian"*     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 are also the gifts of time and talent we share with others during the week. 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

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

I want Jesus to walk with me  
I want Jesus to walk with me:  
All along life's pilgrim journey  
I want Jesus to walk with me

In my trials He'll walk with me  
In my trials He'll walk with me  
All along life's journey  
I know that Jesus will walk with me

***Worship Leader:***

***Kay Jones***

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