

# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 9, 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 9, 2020**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Gathering**

### **Meditation**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

### **Chimes**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*Lord I Lift Your Name on High* - arr. Christopher Phillips  
Tracey Holler, Flute

### **Opening Hymn**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their little wings.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,

The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them everyone.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

## **Lifting up our Joys**

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **✠Call to Worship**

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord and listen to the teaching of our God.

**All: By faith we come before the Lord. God, help our unbelief.**

Leader: By faith we hear the prophet's words: 'Put away evil  
and learn to do good; seek justice for the widow and orphan.'

**All: By faith we follow in God's holy ways.**

Leader: By faith we celebrate God's gift of grace; salvation is ours today.

**All: By faith we clothe ourselves with Christ. Though our sins are  
like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.**

Leader: Let us confess our sins.

### **✠Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we come to you this morning demoralized,  
confused and weary. The repercussions, backlash and side effects of the  
COVID 19 pandemic have taken their toll on us all. We need strength...  
we need forgiveness...we need spiritual guidance...We need You in  
our lives now more than ever God! Nourish us Lord with Your  
Word and give us faith and hope that we may join in your passion and  
victory! Amen

**✠Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)      (*written by Rev. Dr. F. Russell Mitman*)

**Holy God, before whom we stand in awe,  
we confess that we have missed the mark you intend for us.  
We have yielded to the power of temptation  
and have overstepped the boundaries of our humanity.  
We have disobeyed you and have neglected our neighbors.  
We have ignored our holy calling and have misused the means of grace.  
Our sin cries out for your forgiving touch and your renewing Spirit.  
Lord, show us your mercy.**

*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**      *Jeremiah 8: 18- 9:1 Matthew 13: 1-23*      Tom Kramer

**Children's Message and Blessing**      Jamie Barton

**A Song for the Children**      *"The Sower"*

**Today's Message**      *"The Sower"*      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**

*Great is the Lord*

Great is the Lord  
He is holy and just  
By His power we trust  
In His love  
Great is the Lord  
He is faithful and true  
By His mercy He proves  
He is love  
Great is the Lord  
And worthy of glory  
Great is the Lord  
And worthy of praise  
Great is the Lord  
Now lift up your voice  
Now lift up your voice  
Great is the Lord  
Great is the Lord

***Worship Leader:***

***Jamie Barton***

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