



“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34

**September 12, 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**

**September 12, 2021**  
**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Meditation**

“Go put your creed into your deed.”    Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **Chimes**

**Prelude**                    *The Power of the Cross - arr. Carol Tornquist*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**✝ Opening Hymn**                    *The Summons*

### **Verse 1**

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

### **Verse 2**

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

### **Verse 3**

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

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

We are called to follow Jesus.

**But following Jesus isn't easy.**

No. It will demand our dedication and our energy.

**It will change our whole lives.**

Come, all of you. Come and learn of the Lord Jesus.

**Lord, we come, seeking your wisdom and your guidance. Amen.**

### ✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

### ✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Lord, it is easy to declare that we will follow you. It is much harder to follow through on our commitment. Forgive us when we shrink from giving you and your mission our all. Heal us of those things that keep us from a closer walk with you. Give us courage to be disciples and enable us to joyfully proclaim your healing mercies and your transformational love.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

### ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Receive the healing love of Jesus. Give your lives to his service by serving and caring for others. Be at peace. **Amen.**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

### Bible Readings

*Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Mark 8: 27-35*

Stephen Goodale

### Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

✠Hymn

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

**Verse 1**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

**Verse 2**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

**Verse 3**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glow with Thy fire divine.

✠The Apostles Creed (unison)

**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

## ✠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

*Here I Am, Lord*

### Verse 1

I, the Lord of sea and sky

I have heard my people cry

All who dwell in dark and sin

My hand will save

I who made the stars of night

I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

### Chorus

Here I am, Lord

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord

If You lead me

I will hold Your people in my heart

## Verse 2

I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them  
Whom shall I send?

## Chorus

Here I am, Lord  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord  
If You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart

## ✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

## ✠ Chimes/Meditation

**Postlude**    *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations - Ernest Nichol*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
In memory of Tom Wheeler,  
Presented by the Wheeler family*

*Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson*

