



September 13, 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**

September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God--even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

To God be the Glory
Gale Sterner, percussion

Opening Hymn

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day
Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord, my soul.

People: With all my being I bless his holy name.

Leader: Bless the Lord, my soul, and forget none of his benefits.

**People: He forgives all my wrongdoing and heals all my ills.
He rescues me from death's pit and embraces me with love
and compassion. He satisfies me with goodness and wholeness.
In Him, my youth is renewed, and my innocence is restored.**

Leader: Bless the Lord, my soul.

People: With all my being I bless his holy name.

✠ Opening Prayer

Lord, we turn to you on this Sunday seeking forgiveness, wisdom, calmness, and strengths. We seek forgiveness because we are sinners. We seek wisdom to know what is true and right in our ever day lives. We seek calmness and grace when listening to others. We seek strength to fight off temptation. We seek strength to renew and embolden our faith, to believe deeply in You, and to bring your message to others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

✠ 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 *Exodus 14:19-31: Romans 14:1-12*

Children's Message and Blessing

Today's Message

Cancel Culture

The Machamer Family

✝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

**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

My Jesus, I Love Thee

For Thee all the follies of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
I love Thee because Thou has first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

Worship Leaders:

The Machamer Family

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

Make Handwashing a Time of Prayer: Washing our hands for 20 seconds is one of the ways to reduce the spread of the COVID virus. How long is 20 seconds? That is sometimes hard to track. However, there is a way that combines adequate handwashing and praising God. The Doxology that we sing during worship, (it starts with "Praise God from whom all blessings flow...") takes approximately 20 seconds to sing. By choosing to sing the Doxology each time we wash our hands we mentally shift our focus from the challenge of living within a pandemic to thoughts of gratitude and the blessings God has bestowed. Focusing on these positives in the midst of our challenges improves our health and wellbeing. Thanks be to God.

Bible Study: It is Well. Walking Away from Anxiety and into God's Word

St. John's Orwigsburg will be hosting a bible study by zoom starting on Wednesday, October 7 at 9am. We will be using a wonderful book brought to us by Tracy Holler, "Tis Well. Walking Away from Anxiety and into God's Word". In this time of so much chaos it will be a quieting and centering study of God's love and care for us.

We are going to do this by zoom so you will need a computer or smart phone able to connect to zoom. If you have not used zoom before we will walk you through the steps to connect. Please contact Kay Jones if you would like to take part. We will need to order the books for you so we will need your answer by September 23rd. Kay's phone number is 570-366-1333. If you would like to do the study but do not have a computer, please call and let her know and we can try to make other arrangements.