



September 19, 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 19, 2021
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”
Helen Keller

Chimes

Prelude

Give Thanks- Henry Smith
Gale Sterner, Percussion

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn

Still
CCLI Song # 3940963

Verse 1

Hide me now
Under Your wings
Cover me
Within Your mighty hand

When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with You above the storm
Father, you are King over the flood
I will be still, know You are God

Verse 2

Find rest, my soul
In Christ alone
Know His power
In quietness and trust

When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with You above the storm
Father, you are king over the flood
I will be still, know You are God

Chorus

When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with You above the storm
Father, you are King over the flood
And I will be still and know You are God

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

God has been acting in our lives and in the world around us this past week.

We have come for this hour of worship to make ourselves more aware of God and to give thanks for God's presence with us.

God is here even now, ready to strengthen us and to urge us to greater faithfulness.

Fill us with your goodness, O God. Draw us into the orbit of your activity in the world that we might fulfill the purpose for which you created us. Amen

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God and Father, loving us like no other, hear our prayer, the cry of our hearts, as we come to you. We acknowledge our transgressions; we confess to you our sins. Show us mercy and compassion; touch our lives with your healing grace again. Release us from the past, as we seek your face; wash us free at last. We receive your love; We receive your healing grace.

[from "Healing Grace" "Worship & Rejoice Hymnal" Hope Publishing]

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! God's mercy is poured out like a mighty river; grace flows like a never-ending stream. Believe the gospel, and give thanks! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

(the congregation may be seated)

Bible Readings

Romans 8: 18-28

Susan McCartney

Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

The Message

"Loss, Grief and Resiliency"

Donna Mathiowetz

✠ 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 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Verse 1

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
And what a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Verse 3

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude *Preludium in A Minor - J S Bach*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
In loving memory of her husband Wayne,
Presented by Isabel Rhoads*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson

