



September 20, 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 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

Psalm 8:1,2a

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

Fishers of Men

I will make you fishers of men
Fishers of men, fishers of men
I will make you fishers of men if you follow me
If you follow me, if you follow me
I will make you fishers of men
If you follow me

Here Christ calling come unto me
Come onto me, come unto me
Here Christ calling come unto me
I will give you rest
I will give you rest, I will give you rest
Here Christ calling come unto me
I will give you rest

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship

Leader: Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say,
“I find no pleasure in them”

All: Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right

Leader: How can a young man keep his way pure?
By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.

All: My son, do not forget my teachings, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

Leader: Let love and faithfulness never leave you; Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name. In the sight of God and man.

All: Trust in the Lord with all your heart And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits.
He satisfies my desires with good things, So that my youth is renewed like the eagles

Skit

The Invitation Mike, Ava, Claire, and Ella Miller

✠Opening Prayer

Dear Lord: Your Son said “*Let the little children come to me*, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” He also told us that “Truly I tell you, *unless you* change and *become like little children*, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” As we, the congregation of St. John’s, celebrate rally day in this most unusual year, may we take to heart these words. May we realize that these little children in our congregation, whose care we promised to participate in at their baptism have much to teach us... about how to love without complications, how to live without polarization, how to be together for the simple joy of it. Help us to provide them with a firm foundation of faith based on the love your son told us to live by. Amen

Skit

The Unjust Servant
Mark, Thea, Lola, Christian Machamer

✠Prayer of Confession *(unison) Psalm 51*

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

All: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so, you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Leader: Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

All: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

All: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Leader: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

All: Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

Leader - My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

Silent pause for reflection

✠ Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

All: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

Skit

Mary at Jesus Feet

Peter, Amy, Katherine, Mollie & Porter Sarnes

Bible Responsive Reading

Leader: Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

All: Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

Leader: He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

All: He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

Leader: They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

Leader: He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

All: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Blessing the Children

Bible Readings Luke 15:3-20

Today's Message

Skit The Lost Coin
(The Lost Ball)
Penelope Miller

Responsive Reading from 1 Corinthians 12

Leader: Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

All: **Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.**

Leader: And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

All : **But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.**

Leader: The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

All: But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

Leader: If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

All: Now we are the body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it.

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 (2 Corinthians 9)

Leader: Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

All: And God is able to bless us abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that we need, we will abound in every good work.

Leader: It is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

All: We will be enriched in every way so that we can be generous on every occasion, and through our generosity the result is thanksgiving to God. 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 (2 Peter 3:18)**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Closing Song

Children's Medley

Jesus loves me, this I know

For the Bible tells me so

Little ones to Him belong

They are weak, but He is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

The Bible tells me so

Jesus loves me, He who died

Heaven's gate to open wide

He will wash away my sin

Let His little child come in

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

The Bible tells me so

The B-I-B-L-E, yeah that's the book for me

I stand alone on the word of God

The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, yeah that's the book for me

I stand alone on the word of God

The B-I-B-L-E

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red, yellow
Black and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children
Of the world
Jesus died for all the children
All the children of the world
Red, yellow
Black and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus died for all the children
Of the world.

Worship Leader: Kay Jones

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 Tracey 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.