

**September 26, 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 26, 2021**  
**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Meditation**

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”  
Mark Twain

## **Chimes**

**Prelude**      *This is Amazing Grace - Phil Wickham*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**✝ Opening Hymn**      *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

### **Verse 1**

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

### **Verse 2**

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

### Verse 3

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –His wounds have paid my ransom

## Lifting up our Joys

## Birthday Blessings

## Passing of the Peace

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

Be rich in faith, says the God who gives us life.

**We trust in God, who is faithful to us.**

Be strong in spirit, says the God who carries us through life.

**We trust in God, who surrounds us with love.**

Be generous to one another, says the God of abundant grace.

**We trust in God, who is the giver of every gift.**

Be steadfast in your lives, says the God of wisdom.

**We trust in God, who endures forever.**

### ✠Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

### ✠Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**O God of Grace, we confess that sometimes we are unsure of our faith. We are weighed down with doubt and guilt, and do not have the courage to trust in you. Fill our hearts with the assurance of your love, and renew our courage through your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you with joyful abandon.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

**✝ Assurance of Forgiveness**

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and full of unfailing love.” In Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

**Bible Readings**

*Proverbs 22: 1-11; Mark 9:30-37*

Bill Miller

**Children’s Message and Blessing**

Pastor Jeff

**Pastor’s Message**

*“If You Really Want to be Number One”*

**✝ Hymn**

*Make Me a Servant*

Make me a servant humble and meek  
Lord let me lift up those who are weak  
And may the prayer of my heart always be  
Make me a servant, Make me a servant  
Make me a servant today

**✝ A New Creed** *(from UCC partner, the United Church of Canada)*

**We are not alone, we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

## **✠ 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**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be

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there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
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as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness!

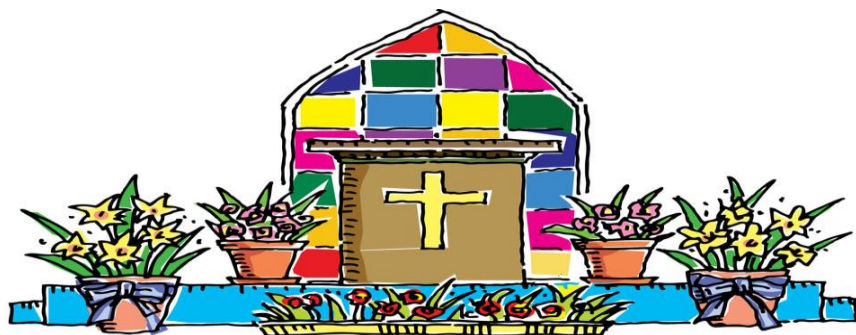
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✝ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✝ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude



## ALTAR FLOWERS

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
In honor of Nick & Amy Marrongelle for their  
September birthdays,  
Presented by Jeff & Barb Marrongelle*

*Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson*

