



September 27, 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 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, in the assembly of the faithful.

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!

Psalm 149:1 Psalm 150:5

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

He Hideth My Soul - arr. Lloyd Larson

Opening Hymn

Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord

The Almighty, the King of creation

O my soul praise Him

For He is thy health and salvation

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near

Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord

Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth

Shielded thee under His wings

Yea, so gently sustaineth

Hast thou not seen, how thy desires have been

Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord

O let all that is in me adore Him

All that hath life and breath

Come now with praises before Him

Let the amen sound from His people again

Gladly forever adore Him

Lifting up our Joys

Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship Responsive Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

People: Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we belong to God. We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter the gates with thanksgiving, and heavenly courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless his name.

People: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever. And his faithfulness to all generations.

✠ Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we have gathered here to worship you. Even though things are different, we wear masks and we socially distance ourselves from one another, we celebrate the opportunity to worship as a congregation together again in this Holy sanctuary. We gather in the presence of you Lord, our creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death. We gather in the presence of Jesus Christ who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship, that we may know its joy. We gather in the presence of the Holy Spirit who sustains us in trials and rejoicing. In our living and in our dying, we belong to you Lord. Let us worship God. Amen.

✠Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

We confess to almighty God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silent pause for reflection

✠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

Psalm 102

Brenda DeRenzo

Children's Message and Blessing

Jamie Barton

Today's Message

"A New Confidence"

Jamie Barton

✠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

Still

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 and know you are God

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 and know you are God

Worship Leader:

Jamie Barton

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.