



September 5, 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 5, 2021
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“Doing your best is more important than being the best”

Shannon Miller

Chimes

Prelude Learning to Live Like a Child of the King - Bill & Gloria Gaither
Gale Sterner, percussion

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn “*We are Called to be God’s People*”

Verse 1

We are called to be God’s people, showing by our lives His grace
One in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race
Let us show how He has changed us,
And remade us as His own,
Let us share our life together as we shall around His throne.

Verse 2

We are called to be God’s people, working in His world today;
Taking His own task upon us, all His sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to His summons, dedicate to Him our all,
That we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now His call

Verse 3

We are called to be God’s prophets, speaking for the truth and right,
Standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil things to light.
Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill,
That the world may know the blessing of the doing of God’s will.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

Lord, help us to work for you.

Lord, make us ready to serve.

Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. (from Psalm 51)

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

Amen. (*the congregation may be seated*)

Bible Readings *Isaiah 35 4-7; Mark 7:31-37*

Elaine Miller

Children's Message and Blessing

Pastor Jeff

Pastor's Message *"Giving Our Best"*

Pastor Jeff

✠ **The Nicene Creed** (*unison*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(the congregation may be seated)

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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

✠ Communion Hymn “*Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands*”

Verse 1

Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
Washing tired feet and saving those who fall;
Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all

Verse 2

Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
Make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I’m gentle too,
Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

✠ Invitation to the Table

✠ Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ’s redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, now and forever. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

✠ **Sanctus** (*sung*)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
(*the congregation may be seated*)

Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Blessing of the Elements

Gracious and loving God, may we experience the spiritual nourishment you wish to give us this morning as partake of the bread and the cup. May we hear your voice and feel your presence as we come to you in gratitude for your blessings, in willingness to accept the challenges you put before us, and in need of your strength and mercy. Amen.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

Partaking of the Elements

Take and eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

✠ **Prayer of Thanksgiving** *(unison)*

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

✠ **Closing Hymn** *“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”*

Verse 1

God be with you till we meet again,
by His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Chorus

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again

Verse 2

God be with you till we meet again;
‘Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Chorus

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again

✝ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✝ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude

To God Be the Glory- William Doane



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
In memory of Harry and Dorothy Moore,
Presented by Jim & Lori Moore*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson

