



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 6, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Meditation

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” John 8: 31 & 32

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Revelation Song - Arr. Mark Hayes

Opening Hymn

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;
Thou art the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;
Search me and try me,
Master, today.
Whiter than snow, Lord,
Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence
Humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way;

Hold o'er my being
Absolute sway.
Fill with Thy Spirit
Till all shall see
Christ only, always,
Living in me.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠Call to Worship

Leader: When the Lord God made the universe, there were no plants, no seedlings, and no one to cultivate the land. Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a human out of it, breathing life into the body.

**People: Have thine own way, Lord! Thou art the Potter; we are the clay.
Mold us and make us after thy will, while we are waiting,
yielded and still.**

Leader: As clay in the potter's hand so are, we in the hand of God. Come, Holy Spirit and breathe life into our earthen vessels. Pour your power upon the church, the body of Christ.

**People: Have thine own way, Lord! Thou art the Potter; we are the clay.
Mold us and make us after thy will, while we are waiting,
yielded and still.**

Leader: Have thine own way, Lord. Rework us and fit us for your service, as we confess our sins before God and one another.

✠ Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to you this morning from many places of the heart
And mind. We are scared of the uncertainty of the continued
Covid 19 pandemic.... we are confused as to what is acceptable and
what is unacceptable. We are overwhelmed with changing rules, laws
and procedures to the point that we have lost focus on what is
most important. Help us Lord, to not become discouraged, but to reach
out in hope...help us to not hide behind excuses, but proceed in faith...and help
us not to be satisfied with who we are, but to envision what we can be.
In Christ Jesus name we pray. Amen

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

**Almighty and most merciful God, we have sinned against thee in thought,
word and deed. We have insisted on our own way. We have run from the
burden of discipleship and turned from the way of the cross.
We have clung to our possessions and sought after even more.
We have feared our neighbor and loved ourselves. Lord, pardon our
sins; take away our guilt; and grant us thy peace through Jesus Christ
our Lord. 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

Isaiah 59: 1-15

Larry Kelly

Children's Message and Blessing

Jamie Barton

Today's Message

"Our Crooked Road"

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 (*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

Closing Song

I Then Shall Live

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may Your living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me.

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.