



May 3, 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**

May 3, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

Meditation

“I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander out under the sky.”
Appalachian Carol

Welcome and Sharing of the Good News of God’s work among us

Prelude

The Time For Singing Has Come-Mark Hayes
Tracey Holler, Flute

Opening Hymn

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy fold prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.

Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Opening Prayer

Dear ever-loving God, we rejoice in your presence in our lives. Let us see you in the beautiful blossoming of spring. Let us hear you in the sounds of the birds. Let us smell you in the clear morning air. Let us taste you in the taking of communion. Help us to be aware of Your eternal presence that is always with us. Help us to know your goodness and steadfastness. Let us rejoice as your children today and all days. Amen

Prayer of Confession

Each of us believes that God already knows our sins and that He will forgive them if we come to Him and confess our and repent of our sins. Let us now take silent time to review our week and see where we have done wrong or not done the good that we could have done and confess to the Lord.

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 23

Luke 15: 1-7

Jamie Barton

Children's Message and Blessing

The Kukta Family

Today's Message

Lost and Found

Kay Jones

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.



† Communion Hymn

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than we'd first begun.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

† Invitation

Leader: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at table with two disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and west, from the north and south, and gather about Christ's table.

Leader: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

✠ Communion Prayer

Leader: We give you thanks Holy One, almighty
and eternal God, always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ.
We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature.
Above all, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, who is the
way, the truth, and the life. By his obedience to you, by his
suffering on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, he
delivered us from the way of sin and death. We praise you that
Jesus now reigns with you in glory and ever lives to pray for us.
We thank you for the Holy Spirit, leading us into truth, defending
us in adversity, and uniting us in one holy church. Therefore,
with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we
worship and glorify you, God Most Holy.

*(The Elements received this morning on the video have been blessed by UCC
Ordained Minister Pastor Shawn Van Dyke)*

Jesus' Words of Institution

Leader: We remember on the night of betrayal and desertion,
Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.
All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

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**

Call to the Supper

Sharing the Bread and Cup

✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray

All: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sending Forth and Final Blessing

Worship Leaders:

Jamie Barton & Kay Jones

Blessings to you from St. John's United Church of Christ in Orwigsburg.

