



**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind. This is
the first and greatest commandment. And the second
is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.**

- Matthew 22:37-39 -

October 29, 2023

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**

October 29, 2023
22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?’” Mother Teresa

Chimes

Prelude

My Jesus I Love Thee

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn - Medley

Hymn #85

I love you Lord and I lift my voice
To worship you O my soul rejoice
Take joy my king in what You hear
May it be a sweet sweet sound in your ear

Hymn #576

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

Hymn #465

In my life Lord be glorified be glorified
In my life Lord be glorified today

In my song Lord be glorified be glorified

In my song Lord be glorified today

In your church Lord be glorified be glorified
In your church Lord be glorified today

Lifting Up Our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✝ Call to Worship (Congregation reads **bold** print)

Good morning!

Good morning to you!

Today is a day that God created!

We shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Thanks be to God!

All: Amen!

✝ Opening Prayer

✝ Prayer of Confession

Dear God, be the hope that overcomes our despair; be the love that overcomes our hatred; be the mercy that overcomes our sin. Set us free from the prisons of our own making, and release us from the bonds that bind us. Forgive us and watch over us. Welcome us home into the loving arms of your mercy. In Christ's name, we pray.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✝ Assurance of Forgiveness

We are not far from the kingdom of God, for in Christ we are given grace and forgiveness. Praise God for this marvelous gift! **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

(children are dismissed to Sunday School)

Bible Readings *Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18* *Matthew 22: 34-40*

Jarrold Kramer

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor.

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself.

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Choir Anthem

Make Us One

Pastor's Message

"A Not So Difficult Question"

Pastor Jeff

✠The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(From the UCC Book of Worship)*

A Moment for Stewardship

Bill Miller

Offertory

Prelude-Caesar Franck

✠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.**

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 # 595 *They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love*

We are one in the Spirit we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land

And they'll know we are Christians by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one
And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠Threefold Amen

✠Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Allegro Moderato



*The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of
God and in Memory of
Rev. Gilbert Bartholomew & Emma
By their children.*