

The LORD God said,
"It is not good for the man to be alone.
I will make a helper suitable for him."
Genesis 2:18

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October 6, 2024

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 6, 2024
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.” Reinhold Niebuhr

Chimes

Prelude

The Love of God

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn #72 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Lifting up our Joys

October Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

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

God whose love is pouring over us, welcomes us here today.

Praise be to God!

God whose healing power is ready to bind up our wounds, welcomes us here today.

Praise be to God!

God whose transforming presence offers us hope and peace, welcomes us here today.

Praise be to God who loves, heals and restores us.

All: Amen!

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession

Dear God, we confess that we have turned away from you. Forgive us when we fail to live into our calling. Guide our feet to walk in your ways and serve your world to the glory of your name.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand;

And we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. Friends, believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings

Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 1:1-4

Bill Miller

Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper as his partner."

¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." ²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Choir Anthem

Communion Hymn - Dudley Buck

Pastor's Message

"Being Alone"

Pastor Jeff

✠ The Nicene Creed

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.

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

†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 #693 *Bread of the World*

Bread of the world, in mercy broken
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
By whom the words of life were spoken,
And in whose death our sins are dead;

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be your feast to us the token
That by your grace our souls are fed.

† Invitation to the Table

†Communion Prayer

May 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.

Creating God, we give thanks that you brought this world and all of humanity into being, breathing life into us. You show yourself in each face we encounter, each and all created in your image. We thank you for your covenants. You taught us how to serve you, and how to honor each other. To bring us into relationship with you, you sent us prophets and teachers. We offer thanks that when we ignored your embrace, you persisted in reaching out to us. We thank you most for the life and ministry of Jesus.

The death and resurrection of Christ taught us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from you. Through your Holy Spirit, you breathe through us, gathering us as a church.

Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

✠ Sanctus

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

Pastor Jeff

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

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

✠Closing Hymn #501 *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*

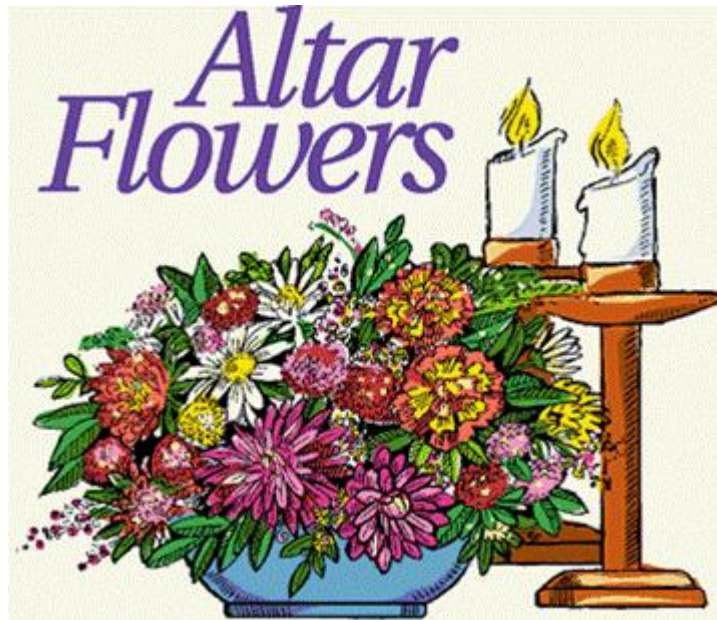
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more
(want no more,) feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
(strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee,
(give to thee,) I will ever give to thee.

✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Threefold Amen



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in memory of loved ones.
Presented by Mardelle Deibert.*