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Blessed are you who
hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who
weep now,
for you will laugh.

Luke 6:21 NIV

B BIBLE PORTAL

February 16, 2025

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**

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Meditation

“If you don't have a spiritual practice in place when times are good, you can't expect to suddenly develop one during a moment of crisis.” - Doug Coupland

Chimes

Prelude

Craig Johnson, solo

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn #666 *Blest are They*

Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow,
they shall be consoled.

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones,
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
they shall have their fill.

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they who show mercy,
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart,
they shall see God.

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they who seek peace.
They are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith,
the glory of God is theirs.

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Lifting Up Our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

Blessed are those who observe God's commandments.

Faithful are those whose eyes are fixed on righteousness.

Joyful are those whose hearts are filled with praise.

Come, let us love the Lord our God.

We come to worship the One who leads us in the ways of life.

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

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

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

Mike Nye

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Special Music

Craig Johnson, solo

Pastor's Message *"What Will it Take to Make You Happy?"* 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.

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

Craig Johnson

✠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 #60 *I will sing of the Mercies*

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known
your faithfulness, your faithfulness;
with my mouth will I make known
your faithfulness to all generations,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise forever
for the things he has done.
All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise forever,
All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise.
Who can be compared to God in faithfulness,
In faithfulness? Who can be compared to God
in faithfulness to all generations?
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Threefold Amen

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude *Allegro Moderato*



*The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of
God, in Memory of our Mothers.
Presented by Maude & Hank White.*