

A photograph of a hand reaching out towards a bright sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The water is calm and reflects the light. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange.

And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which  
proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?  
-Luke 4:22 KJV

[www.SaviorConnect.com](http://www.SaviorConnect.com)

**February 2, 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 2, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Meditation**

“I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is that they must change if they are to get better” Georg Lichtenberg

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*Praise Him, Praise Him*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**✠ Opening Hymn**    *How Deep the Father's Love For Us*

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom.  
CCLI Song # 1558110

## **Lifting up our Joys**

## **February Birthday Blessings**

## **Passing of the Peace**

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

Today, the words of God come to us, in love,  
**inviting us to not be afraid, but to place our faith in God.**

Today, the word of God comes to us, in faith,  
**inviting us to trust in the One who knows us,  
to place our hope in the One who saves us.**

Today, the Word of God comes to us, in hope,  
**inviting us to be gracious in our love and in our service to others.**

### **✠ Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

### **✠ Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, we hear you calling. You have shown us hope and you offer us courage. We come to you as people who long to walk your pathways of grace and love. But many times, God, we get discouraged by our living. We are afraid of the difficult experiences; we despair at challenges that are given to us. The roads we walk find us weary sometimes, and we let hopelessness get the best of us. Care for us on our journey, God. Help us to know that your**

**love is always there, sustaining us, and surrounding us with care. Take our road-weary lives and transform us to be your new people, shining in the darkness.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

### **✠ Assurance of Forgiveness**

God has called us and will lead us, even in the wilderness places. **Through Christ, we trust that God loves us and will always be with us.**

### **Children's Message**

Pastor Jeff

### **Bible Readings**

*Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 4:22-30*

Kay Jones

## **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, <sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup>See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

## Luke 4:22-30

<sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

<sup>23</sup>He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”

<sup>24</sup>And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.

<sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

<sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**Special Music**                      *O Day of Peace* - Kathy Crusi, soprano

**Pastor’s Message**                      “*A Remedy for Rejection*”                      Pastor Jeff

### Installation of Consistory

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

**There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

**The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

**It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised; all the other parts share its happiness.

**All of us are Christ's body, and each one is an important part of it.**

## ✠ Reading of the Church Covenant

**We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the Will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our for bearers, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.**

*(from the Constitution of St John's United Church of Christ)*

## Giving our Gifts to God

### Offertory

*One Bread, One Body*

## ✠ 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

### Meditation in Music

*Give Me Jesus* - Kathy Crusi, soprano

## Invitation to the Table

### ✠ Communion Prayer

Pastor Jeff

May the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, now and forever. Therefore, we join 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 as the Pastor continues)*

### **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**

Pastor Jeff

### **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. Come, for all things are ready.

### **Sharing 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** (*unison*)

**Holy God, thank you for your love which lifts us, your presence which fills us and your life which empowers us to be your people. Amen.**

### **✠Closing Hymn #698** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Let us talents and tongues employ,  
Reaching out with a shout of joy;  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,  
At the table he set the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless,  
Love in word and indeed express.  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share;  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around loaves abound!



‡ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

‡ **Three-fold Amen**

‡ **Chimes/Meditation**

**Postlude**    *Allegro Maestoso*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
In Memory of Loved Ones.  
Presented by George & Deb Wagner.*