



**March 10, 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**

**March 10, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Meditation**

“God is not found in the soul by adding anything but by subtracting.”  
Meister Eckhart

**Prelude**

*Amazed*

arr. Phillip Keveren

**Welcome and Announcements**

**✠ Opening Hymn #287**    *Lift High the Cross (verses 1-3)*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

All newborn servants of the Crucified  
Bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us life eternally.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

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

Give thanks to God!

**Proclaim God's goodness throughout all the world.**

Let all of us, gathered here, celebrate God's absolute love.

**Let us offer our lives in service to others.**

Thanks be to God for the blessings which have been poured on us.

**Lord, enable us to use our gifts to serve you in your world.**

### ✝Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

### ✝Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness.**

**Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray.**

*Silent pause for reflection*      **Amen.**

### ✝Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear now the loving truth of God: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned. **Thanks be to God!**

## Girl Scout Sunday Recognition

**Bible Readings**

*Isaiah 41:8-10, Sophie Strokelitus*

*John 3:14-21, Mariah Litton*

**Isaiah 41:8-10**

8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; 9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”; 10 do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

**John 3:14-21**

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to

the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.  
21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so  
that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been  
done in God.”

## **Choir Anthem**

*Lenten Meditation*

## **Pastor’s Message**

“The Condemning Heart”

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)*

## **Giving our Gifts to God**

## **Offertory**

*Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

## **✠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**

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

✠ **Closing Hymn #408**      *I Am Thine, O Lord*

I am thine, O Lord-  
I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me  
but I long to rise in the arms of faith  
and be closer drawn to thee  
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now  
To thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope  
And my will be lost in thine.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To thy precious, bleeding side.

O the pure delight  
Of a single hour that before thy throne I spend,  
When I kneel in prayer and with thee, my God  
I commune as friend with friend.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To thy precious, bleeding side.

There are depths of love  
That I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea;  
There are heights of joy that I may not reach  
Till I rest in peace with thee.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,

To the cross where thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To thy precious, bleeding side.

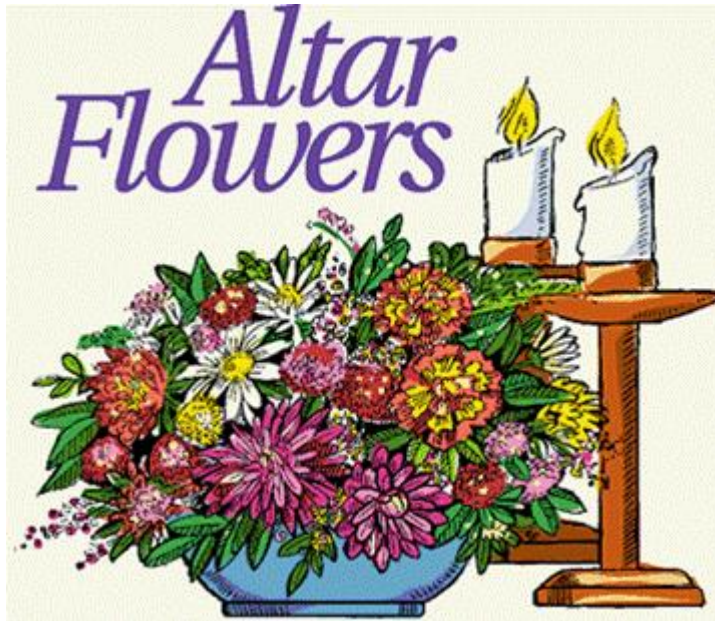
✝ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✝ Three-fold Amen

✝ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

*Firm Foundation*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
In Memory of John H. & Geraldine Lundbye and  
Doris & James Hamilton.  
Presented by Wayne & Linda Hamilton*

