



March 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**

March 2, 2025

Meditation

“Be gentle with this life and use the Light of Life to live fully in your time.”

John McQuiston

Chimes

Prelude *The Power of the Cross*

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **Opening Hymn #254** *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
He had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him,
He had to walk it by himself.

Jesus prayed for his disciples;
He prayed alone for you and me,
O, nobody else could bear such sorrow;
He prayed alone for you and me.

Jesus died on Calvary's mountain;
He died alone for you and me.
O, nobody else could die for sinners;
He had to die for you and me.

Jesus rose from death's dark prison;
He lives again for you and me.
O, nobody else could bring us victory;
He is alive to set us free.

Lifting Up Our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

(Psalm 5 verses)

Listen to my words, Lord,
consider my lament.

**Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.**

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
**in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.**

For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

**let all who take refuge in you be glad;
Spread your protection over them,
you surround them with your favor as with a shield.**

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Kay Jones

Dear Lord, as we approach the season of Lent this year, as we accompany your son on his journey to the cross and beyond to the glory of Easter morning, help us to be fully open to your guidance as we practice the disciplines that have been in our faith since the beginning. Help us to realize more fully the sacrifice that was made for us. Help us to realize more fully the way that Jesus set for us to be his followers in this world. May we become better people, better Christians, better children in your care. Amen

✠ **Prayer of Confession**

Dear Lord, we so often take your son for granted. He becomes for us a background for our lives instead of an active guide. He gave so much, the ultimate sacrifice, yet we do so little in return.

We are distracted by the chaos of the world and the demands of our lives. We have lost the foundation our lives are built on . Help us during this season of Lent to focus on the ways Jesus taught us to live while he was with us. And bring us to Easter morning, more fully as his followers.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He will restore peace in our hearts.

Thanks be to God!

Children's Message *The Gift of Giving*

Bible Readings

Romans 12: 1-2 Matthew 7: 24-27

Eileen Rump

Romans 12: 1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 7: 24-27

‘Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!’

Choir Anthem

A Clean Heart

✝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 *Abide with Me* - arr. Austin Lovelace

✝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 #257

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Threefold Amen

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude *Lift High the Cross*



***The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of
God, in Loving Memory of
Lucille and Sallie Scharadin.
Presented by the Paul C. Scharadin Estate.***