

*"It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."
Mark 4: 31,32*

June 16, 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**

June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“If God gives you something you can do, why in God's name wouldn't you do it?”
Stephen King

Prelude

Summer Breezes

Walter R. Clarke

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn #580 *“We Are Called to be God’s People”*

We are called to be God’s people, showing by our lives his grace.
One in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.
Let us show how he has changed us, and remade us as his own.
Let us share our life together as we shall around his throne.

We are called to be God’s servants, working in his world today.
Taking his own task upon us, all he sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to his summons, dedicate to him our all.
That we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now his call.

We are called to be God’s prophets, speaking for the truth and right.
Standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil things to light.
Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill.
That the world may know the blessing of the doing of God’s will.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

In all times and in all places, God is with us.

God’s love flows over and around us, lifting us in hope.

Shout for joy!

Sing praises to God!

Get ready to become disciples for Jesus.

All: Lord, make us ready to serve you.

✠Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Patient Lord, you know us through and through. You see us let our frustrations and worries overcome us. You see us when we turn away from you and live selfishly. Please forgive us. Help us to remember more often that our lives with you are a partnership. May we hold up our end of the bargain, seeking you out and serving this world for which Christ died, every day.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠Assurance of Forgiveness

Let go of your fears and doubts. God pours his love on you, in you and through you to others. Be at peace. **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings

Ezekiel 17:22-24; Mark 4:26-34

Jamie Barton

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Choir Anthem

Psalm 150 Arr. By Rosemary Hadler

Pastor's Message

“The Power of Little Things”

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

†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 #372

I Then Shall Live

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father.
I am his child, and I am not afraid.
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive another.
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved that I'll risk loving, too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges.
I dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your kingdom come around and through and in me.

Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor.
And may your living kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor.
And may you feed a hungry world through me.

Sending Forth and Final Blessing

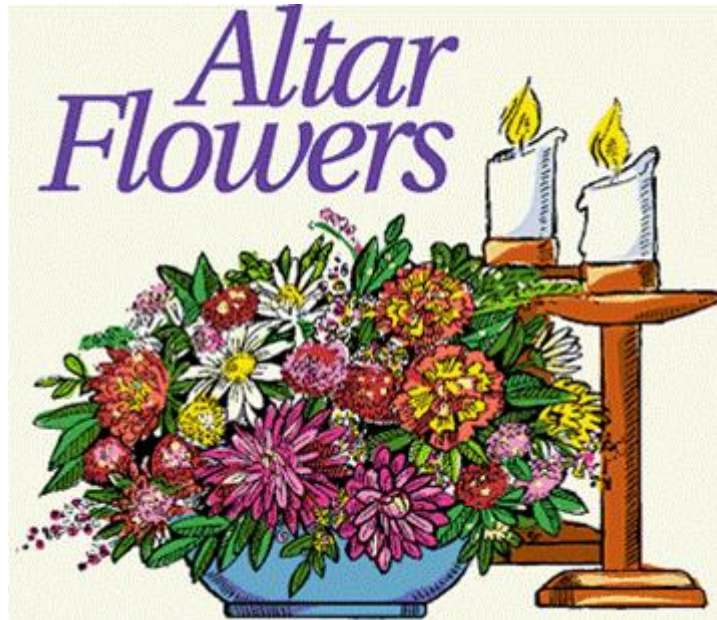
✠ **Three-fold Amen**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude

The Glorious Kingdom

Roger C. Wilson



***The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God, in Loving Memory
of My Dad.
Presented by Isabel Rhoads.***