

July 21, 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**

July 21, 2024

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“The way to happiness: Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry. Live simply, expect little, give much. Scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others. Try this for a week and you will be surprised.” Norman Vincent Peale

Prelude

I am Thine, O Lord arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn #499

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content what e'er my lot may be,
Since 'tis my God who leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When by thy grace the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

Come away, disciples of Christ, and rest from your labors.

We are weary from our work.

Come away, disciples of Christ, and leave the demands
of the crowds.

There are always more who need our help.

Come away, disciples of Christ, and be renewed
in fellowship with our shepherd.

We too love the sheep, but need our own renewal.

**We too need to hear anew the teachings of Jesus,
to give us strength for the journey.**

Come away, disciples of Christ, and draw courage
from the one who gives us peace.

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession**

**God we confess to you this morning that we often stray from the path you have
designed for our lives. We stray through self-centeredness, through fear and
needless worry, and through a feeling of self-sufficiency. Forgive us Lord.**

**Help us to live the Christ life that we profess. May your cleansing love lead us
to grow in love and service to this world for whom Christ died.**

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest.” In Christ’s name, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Children’s Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings *Psalm 103:1-12; Mark 6: 30-34,53-56* Barbara Skelding

Psalm 103:1-12

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,
 bless his holy name.
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his
benefits— 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all
 your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the Pit,
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who
 satisfies you with good as long as you live so that
 your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
6 The LORD works vindication and justice for all who
are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel. 8 The LORD is merciful
 and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in
 steadfast love.
9 He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger
forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our
 sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so
great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far he
 removes our transgressions from us.

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him
all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them,
“Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves

and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. 54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, 55 and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Choir Anthem

Prayer of Gratitude

Pastor’s Message

“A Vacation to Remember”

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

✠ *All who are able shall stand*

Offertory

Our Father, Who are in Heaven - J C Bach

†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 #440 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (vs. 1,2,3)

Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast brought us, thine we are.

We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee,
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.

†Sending Forth and Final Blessing

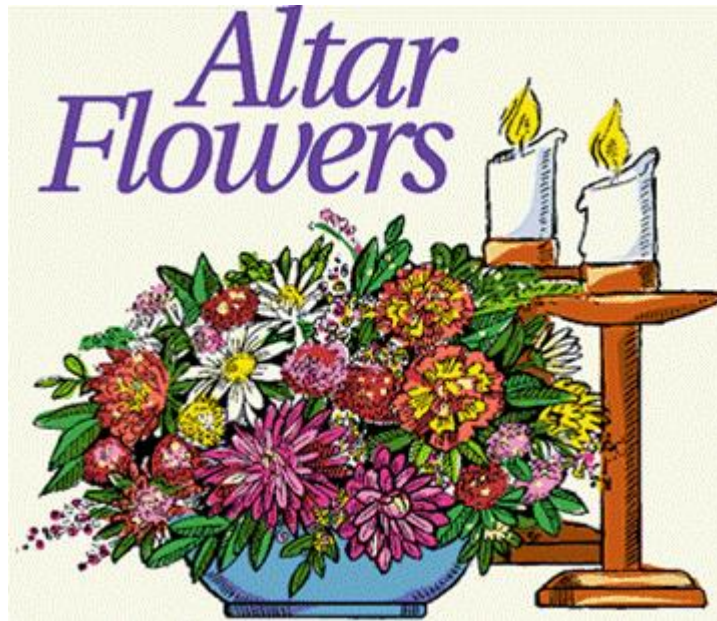
† *All who are able shall stand*

✠ Three-fold Amen

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Marin Marais



*The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God, in Memory of
Stephen and Andrew Pacovsky.
Presented by Tom, Steph & Olivia
Pacovsky*