



August 10, 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**

August 10, 2025

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“The opposite of faith is not doubt, it's indifference.”

Elie Wiesel

Prelude

Summer Breezes – Walter R. Clarke

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening 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 the 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.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

Christ is in our midst! How will you bid him welcome?

We will throw open the doors to our hearts. We will delight in his presence.

When God shows up, surprising things can happen.

We will make ourselves ready. We will lay down our burdens and set aside our distractions.

Here we receive good news: Nothing is too wonderful for God!

So, let us laugh and sing, rest and listen, dance and praise—

All: Let us worship God!

✠Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠Prayer of Confession

Dear God, you know us through and through. Thank you, God, for never giving up on us, even at those moments when we stray from your path. Forgive us, O Lord, and guide us to spiritual renewal. May we live lives of purpose, your purpose, and always be attentive to the opportunities you give us to learn, to love, and to serve.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

People of God, we have all received God's mercy in Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a community united in faith. **Thanks be to God!**

Report from General Synod Delegates Caitlin Brossman, Alison Holler

Bible Readings *Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12* Elaine Miller

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶ And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same

promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

Pastor's Message

"Where's the Magic?"

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

Song Without Words – Gertrude H. Richolson

✠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

**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 #419

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me every stray
From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,

A ransomed soul!

Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ **Three-fold Amen**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude

Postludium in F – Chester Nordman



***The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God
In Memory of Beloved Husband,
Milton Anchorstar.
Presented by Phyllis Anchorstar.***