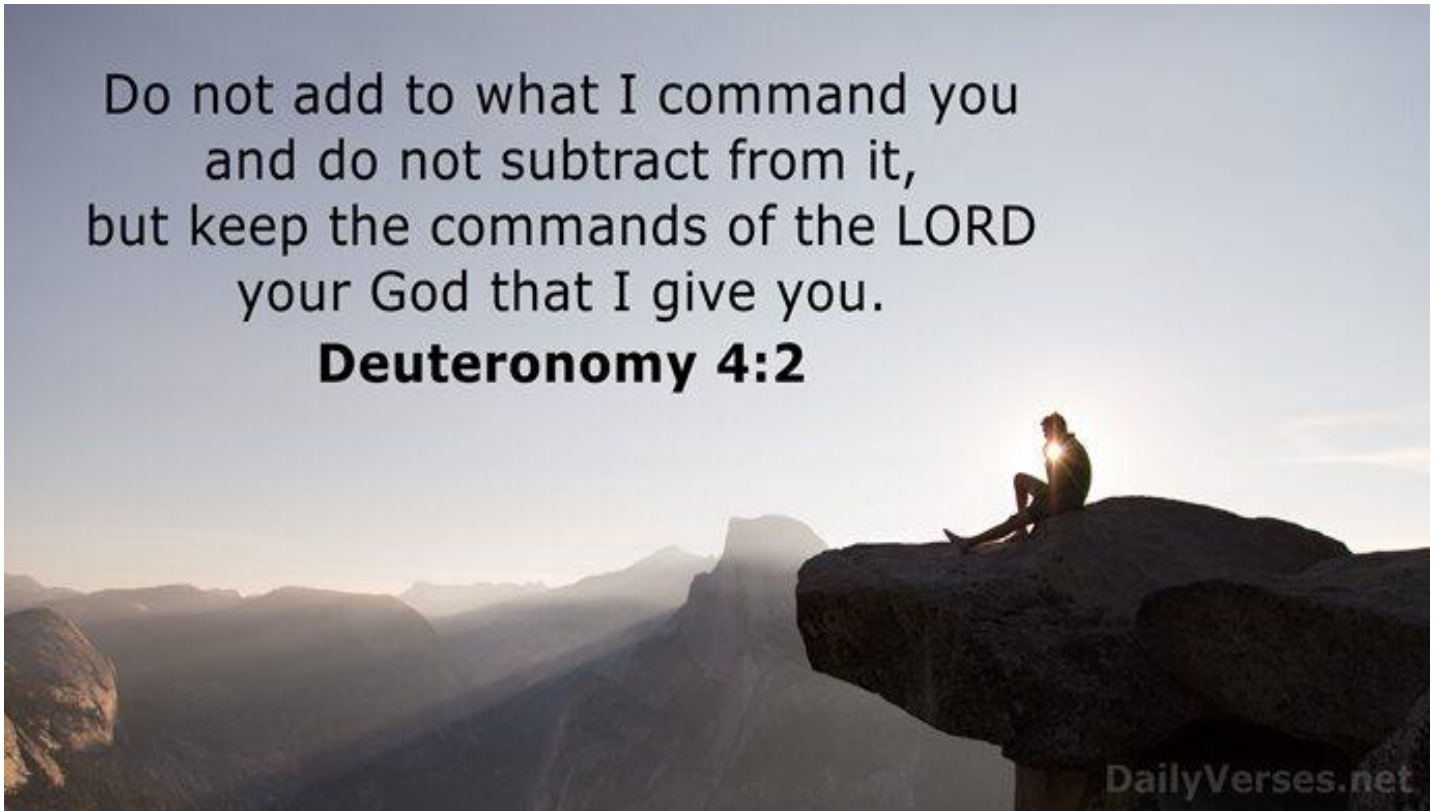


Do not add to what I command you
and do not subtract from it,
but keep the commands of the LORD
your God that I give you.

Deuteronomy 4:2



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September 1, 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

September 1, 2024

15th Sunday after Pentecost- Communion

Meditation

“Go put your creed into your deed.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Chimes

Prelude

Ryan Rump - Solo

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn #346 *O Come to Me, the Master Said*

O come to me, the Master said, my Father knows your need
And I shall be, the Master said, your bread of life indeed
By faith in him we live and grow and share the broken bread,
And all his love and goodness know, for so the Master said.

Abide in me, the Master said, the true and living vine;
My life shall be, the Master said, poured out for you as wine,
His body to the cross he gave, his blood he freely shed,
Who came in love to seek and save, for so the Master said.

Believe in me, the Master said, for I have called you friends,
And yours shall be, the Master said, the life that never ends.
And so, with sin and sorrow past, when death itself is dead.
The Lord shall raise us up at last, for so the Master said.

Lifting up our Joys

September Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

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

Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

Lord, help us to work for you.

Lord, make us ready to serve.

Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from out iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit' *(from Psalm 51)*

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Bill Miller

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

⁴So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him?

⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.

³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Choir Anthem

“Remember”

Given in honor of Isabel Rhoads by Bill & Elaine Miller

Pastor’s Message

“Might the Pharisees Have Been Irish?”

Pastor Jeff

✠ 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

✠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.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

✠Communion Song Ryan Rump, Solo

✠ Invitation to the Table

✠ Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, now and forever.

Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

✠ Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of

the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

(the congregation may be seated)

Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Blessing of the Elements

Pastor Jeff

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

Partaking of the Elements

Take and eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

✠ Closing Hymn #698 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound!

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Threefold Amen

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Let Every Voice and Sing