



**Who is not
against us is
for us**

Mark 9:40 (NIV)

September 29, 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 29, 2024
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”
Mark Twain

Chimes

Prelude

To God Be the Glory

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn #443 *Trust and Obey*

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word,
 What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.
 Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
 But our toil he will richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
 But is blest if we trust and obey.
 Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of his love,
 Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor he shows and the joy he bestows
 Are for them who will trust and obey.
 Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,

Or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go-
Never fear, only trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

Be rich in faith, says the God who gives us life.

We trust in God, who is faithful to us.

Be strong in spirit, says the God who carries us through life.

We trust in God, who surrounds us with love.

Be generous to one another, says the God of abundant grace.

We trust in God, who is the giver of every gift.

Be steadfast in your lives, says the God of wisdom.

We trust in God, who endures forever.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession

O God of Grace, we confess that sometimes we are unsure of our faith. We are weighed down with doubt and guilt, and do not have the courage to trust in you. Fill our hearts with the assurance of your love, and renew our courage through your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you with joyful abandon.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and full of unfailing love.” In Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Psalm 19:7-14

- ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
- ⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of
the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
- ⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than
honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
- ¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
- ¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion
over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Mark 9:38-42

- ³⁸John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name,
and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”
- ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my
name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.
- ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us.
- ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear
the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.
- ⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in
me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and
you were thrown into the sea.

Choir Anthem

“The Shield of Faith”

Pastor’s Message

“What Really Counts”

Pastor Jeff

✠The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

(from the UCC Book of Worship)

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

When I Survey - arr. Diane Bish

✠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.

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 #442 *'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise, just to know "Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust you, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend,
And I know that you are with me, will be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

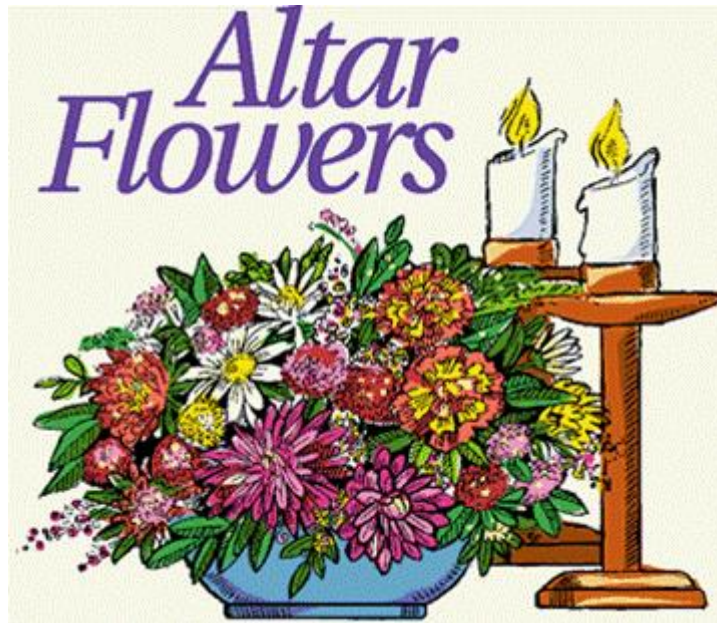
✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Three-fold Amen

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

The Summons



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of
God, in memory of Alma & David Anderson,
John M. Aregood, Sr. and Rev. John M.
Aregood, Jr.
Presented by the Bob Aregood Family.*