

THE PEOPLE WERE UTTERLY  
ASTONISHED AND SAID, "HE HAS  
DONE ALL THINGS WELL! HE MAKES  
EVEN THE DEAF HEAR AND THE  
MUTE SPEAK!"

- MARK 7:37

September 8, 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 8, 2024**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Meditation**

“In the spiritual life only one thing produces genuine joy and that is obedience”  
Richard Foster

**Chimes**

**Prelude**                      *Sweet Hour of Prayer* - arr. Eric Wyse

**Welcome and Announcements**

✠ **Opening Hymn #652**              *This is the Day*

This is the day, this the day that the  
Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that the  
Lord has made.

**Lifting up our Joys**

**Passing of the Peace**

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

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

**We gather, alive to the Word of God.**

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,  
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**We listen, alive to the Word of God.**

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

**We watch and wait for the Word of God.**

## ✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

## ✠ Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Forgive us and cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may love and serve you with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength.**

*Silent pause for reflection*      **Amen.**

## ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. **Thanks be to God!**

## Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

## Bible Readings

*Psalm 40:1-5; Mark 7:31-37*

Mark Machamer

### **Psalm 40:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

<sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

## Mark 31-37

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

<sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”

<sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

<sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

### Choir Anthem

*How Can I Keep From Singing*

### Pastor's Message

*“Breaking Out of the Huddle”*

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**      *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* - arr. Mark Hayes

### ✠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 #94      *Shout to the Lord*

My Jesus, My Savior, Lord there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing;  
Power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

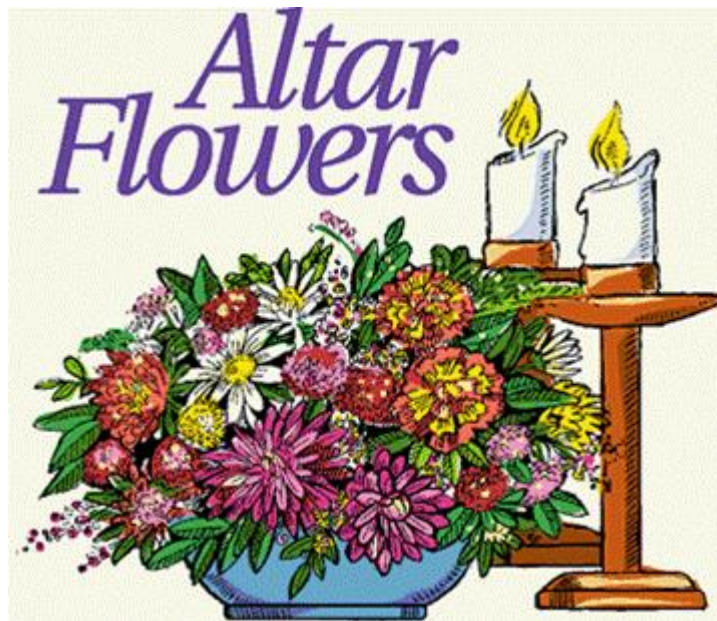
✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Three-fold Amen**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

**Postlude**

*All Hail King Jesus*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
in memory of Tom Wheeler.  
Presented by the Wheeler Family.*