

ST. JOHN'S UCC

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stjohnsweldonspring.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing and rejoice! The Lord reaches out to you with healing love!

P: The Lord is our strength and our power!

L: Dance before the Lord, a dance of joy and hope!

P: The Lord brings us joy and lifts us up in hope.

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

P: Let us celebrate the good news God brings to us each day. AMEN.

OPENING SONG

"O, How I Love Jesus"

(next page)

O, How I Love Jesus

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for He is love. — I John 4:8

O, HOW I LOVE JESUS

American Melody

Descant by Ralph H. Good Pasteur

Frederick Whitfield

1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
2 It tells me of a Sav-ior's love, Who died to set me free;
3 It tells of One whose lov-ing heart Can feel my deep-est woe,

Descant: To

1 It sounds like mu-sic in my ear, The sweet-est name on earth.
2 It tells me of His pre-cious blood, The sin-ner's per-fect plea.
3 Who in each sor-row bears a part That none can bear be-low.

me, it's won-der-ful, To me, it's won-der-ful! To
O, how I love Je-sus, O, how I love Je-sus,

me, it's won-der-ful To know that Je-sus is mine!
O, how I love Je-sus—Be-cause He first loved me!

OPENING PRAYER

ALL: When we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life, enter our hearts with your redeeming love, O Christ. When our fears overtake us and we cannot find our way, give us direction that we might faithfully serve you all our days, singing your praises! AMEN.

CHILDREN'S TIME

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER SONG

"Cares Chorus"

*I cast all my cares upon you,
I lay all my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²²and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." ²⁷Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ³⁰That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. ³¹And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Matthew 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

SERMON

“Road to Freedom”

SERMON SONG

"Forgiveness" by Matthew West

It's the hardest thing to give away
And the last thing on your mind
today
It always goes to those who don't
deserve
It's the opposite of how you feel
When they pain they caused is
just too real
Takes everything you have to say
the word
Forgiveness, forgiveness
It flies in the face of all your pride
It moves away the mad inside
It's always anger's own worst
enemy
Even when the jury and the judge
Say you've got a right to hold a
grudge
It's the whisper in your ear saying
set it free
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Show me how to love the
unlovable
Show me how to reach the
unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible

Forgiveness, forgiveness
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness
It'll clear the bitterness away
It can even set a prisoner free
There is no end to what its power
can do
So let it go and be amazed by
what you see through eyes of
grace
The prisoner that it really frees is
you
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Show me how to love the
unlovable
Show me how to reach the
unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness
I want finally set it free
Show me how to see what your
mercy sees
Help me now to give what You
gave to me
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness

OFFERING PRAYER**CLOSING SONG**

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my
song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought
and storm

What heights of love, what
depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when
strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and
righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came
to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live
There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness
slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine

Bought with the precious blood
of Christ
No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final
breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell, no scheme
of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll
stand
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of
man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll
stand

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG "God Be With You"

PARTICIPANTS: Pastors: Rev. Todd Bean, Rev. Shana Johnson; Sound Booth: Jeff Kolkmeier; Liturgist: Dot Janitch; Parking Lot: Diane Falkner

Joys and Concerns Prayer List

Please have the person's permission ***before*** adding him or her to our prayer list.

TODAY AND THROUGH THE WEEK, PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our church family: Vince Morris (comfort/healing), Larry Nadler (comfort

and strength), Steve Marshall and family (comfort), Gayle Winchell (healing), Vera Villa and daughters (comfort and strength), Denny Freant and family (comfort), Carol Crosson and family (comfort), George Schlie (surgery recovery), Barb Eickmeier and family (comfort), Judy DeClue (healing), Jean Mauntel (healing), Henry Kroeger, Kendra Howell (healing/recovery), Mary Verdone (sight), Dave & Dorothy Kapeller (comfort/healing), Pat Fisher (healing/strength).

Others for whom we have concern: Sarah Matney (Tom Gooch's granddaughter; healing), Don Oelklaus (Jeff Kolkmeier's uncle; in hospital for tests), Rusty and Jeremiah Overstreet and the Lockett family (comfort), Family of Virgil Gravemann (uncle/godfather of Diane Falkner), Gary Rose (Barb Rose's stepson; cancer), Angela Farwell (Barb Rose's niece; cancer), Maureen (Barb Yocks' friend; starting breast cancer treatment), Tina Raeber (Barb Rose's daughter; surgery), Michelle Hargraves (surgery/shoulder), Carol Becker (Chris Volz' friend; cancer), Zack Paulus (Shirley Paulus' great grandson, Charissa Guyre's great nephew; deploying to Iraq), Sharon (Kristy Kniest's mom; surgery recovery), Rachel McCollum (Chris Savage's granddaughter; surgery recovery), Lynn Schaefer (friend of Connie Wildt; cancer), Valeta Schien (cancer treatment), David Raming (Barb Horstmeier's brother-in-law; heart problems), Dot Peich (cancer), Daniel Nadler (family strength & direction).

Please contact the church office with prayer request updates.

News & Announcements

FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP MOVES TO 9 A.M. NEXT WEEK

With cooler mornings arriving with fall, the **drive-in worship service will begin at 9 a.m.** starting next week on September 20. Please remain in your vehicle and tune in to 88.9 FM. to listen to the service. The restrooms inside the building are available for emergency use only.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

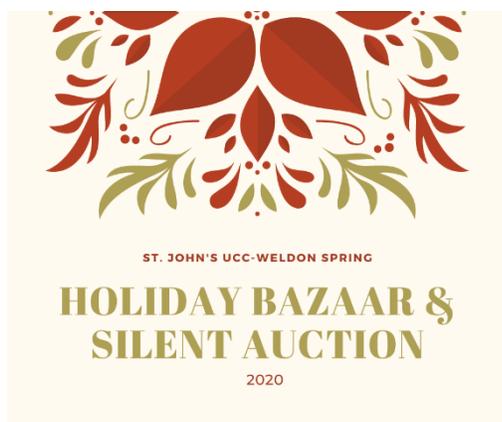
This Festival of Sharing is still on this year! Since we are experiencing a health crisis, the Mission Committee has decided NOT to accept any Reading and Writing Kits, Dental Kits, etc. However, we would like to encourage the sending of monetary donations. If you wish to help with this mission project, please make your check out to St. John's UCC and in the memo space write Festival of Sharing. Donations will be accepted until September 20.

BLANKET SUNDAY

Blanket Sunday will be September 20. The donations given to this mission project will benefit the (Church World Service) Blankets Program. Please consider helping with this worthwhile cause by making out your check to St. John's UCC and in the memo space write Blanket Sunday. Learn more about this CWS program at cwsblankets.org.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES SEPTEMBER 23

Women's Bible Study will resume online on Wednesday, September 23 at 1 p.m. Pastor Todd will lead the study on "Life Lessons from Psalms". If you plan to participate and would like a copy of the Max Lucado book for this study, please call the office as soon as possible so we can make sure to order enough.



HOLLY BERRY FAIR (HOLIDAY BAZAAR) UPDATE

Because of the COVID situation that we are still experiencing, we will not be holding the annual Holly Berry Fair at the church this year.

HOWEVER – with the help of our church family and friends, we would still like to hold an online auction and quilt raffle!!!! There are a lot of things to accomplish and consider with social

distancing in effect, so you will be getting further updates and information via mail, newsletter, bulletins, phone calls, etc. This fundraiser will be very important, since we have not been able to have any of our barbeques this year. As in the past, please consider now how you may help by donating auction items or selling/buying quilt tickets.

What we know at this time: we are thinking that the auction would be held over a week's time period, ending on Saturday, November 7. We would need auction items (valued at \$20 or more) dropped off at least 3-4 days prior to the start of the auction in order to take pictures and get the pictures loaded onto whatever application that we will be using. Quilt tickets/money would need to be returned no later than 2 days prior to 11/7. (Thank you Barb Horstmeier for the lovely quilt!!). There are still more options to consider and there is a lot to plan, so again we will be sending out further detailed information as soon as possible. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact the church office at 636-926-8995.

NEWSLETTERS

Please let the office know if you would like the monthly newsletter mailed to you while we're not having in-person (in-sanctuary) church. Newsletters are sent via email and posted on the St. John's website and Facebook, but we realize not every has access to these resources. Call the office at 636-926-8995.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The church council met on Tuesday August 25 and has made the following decision: The church council has decided to remain in phase 1 of the Safe Church protocol. This includes the suspension of all in-person worship services as well as the church building remaining closed for all activities during this time frame. The church council will meet again on Tuesday, September 22 to re-evaluate the situation. We will continue to provide the drive-in worship service as well as the online worship service during this time. Please keep our church in your thoughts and prayers.

