



*Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.*  
— Isaiah 40:26

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**Virtual Worship & FM 88.5**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 7, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

St. John's United Church of Christ  
An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

February 7, 2021

*(Let us be silent and prayerful as we prepare ourselves for worship.)*

---

**MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Remembering that God calls us through Christ to be ministers with each other, St. John's United Church of Christ, as inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit, seeks: To be inclusive and accessible to all people; To provide loving service to all of God's people through mission and ministry; To strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

---

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Joys & Concerns

Moment for Centering

Call to Worship (from Psalm 147)

Praise the LORD!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God;**

For God is gracious,

**and a song of praise is fitting.**

God heals the brokenhearted,

**and binds up their wounds.**

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

**make melody to our God!**

Opening Music: "Arise, Your Light is Come" #164

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Arise, your light has come!<br/>The Spirit's call obey;<br/>show forth the glory of your God<br/>which shines on you today.</p> <p>2. Arise, your light has come!<br/>Fling wide the prison door;<br/>proclaim the captive's liberty,<br/>good tidings to the poor.</p> | <p>3. Arise, your light has come!<br/>All you in sorrow born,<br/>bind up the brokenhearted ones<br/>and comfort those who mourn.</p> <p>4. Arise, your light has come!<br/>The mountains burst in song!<br/>Rise up like eagles on the wing,<br/>God's pow'r will make us strong.</p> |
|---|--|

Words for All - Especially Children

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31

Message "Waiting"

We Pause to Pray "On Eagles' Wings"

Morning Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sinned and sinned against us) 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 have sinned 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.

Offering Response #781

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.**

Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: O God, please take these gifts and multiply them; let them be a means to create the justice and peace you long for in this world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### Celebration of Holy Communion

#### Invitation to Communion

*Come to this table because you want to celebrate -care in illness, comfort in sorrow, healing beyond curing, peace in forgiveness, hope in times of fear or threat. Come to this table because you claim your abundance, as culture defines it or as your heart knows it. Come to this table because you have discovered your own generosity and need to start giving. Come to this table because you are willing to be welcomed, even when that is awkward, and willing to welcome to the limit of your resources, and even to offer welcome knowing it may be rejected. Come to this teeter-totter table, where the bakers and the starving, touch elbows and hearts.*

**Words of Remembering** - *We remember that Jesus Christ came from a culture of oasis hospitality, stories of manna, grain gleaned, a raven feeding the prophet Elijah, Abigail hurrying to offer a feast, and a Passover meal for which everything stopped, and all were fed. We remember that Jesus came from both family Sabbath evenings, and the rule-bending of grain plucked from a field when someone was hungry. We remember that Jesus remembered, that on his first day in the healing business, he lifted up a woman from her fever and she responded by serving everyone from the generosity of her wellness. Jesus sat and ate at that table. We remember that Jesus remembered that, near the end of his ministry, he called a short man from a tree into a forgiveness so abundant it became a meal for the least and lost. Jesus sat and ate at that table, too. And we remember that Jesus knew, when it was the last Passover, how important healing and turning lives around was, and blessed unleavened bread. and poured wine and love freely, inviting us always to share both brokenness and grace.*

**Prayer of Consecration** - *Gentle Host, rest upon us as you rested upon water and light, earth and creatures, human beings, all in your image, and even the cooking pots and serving bowls of those who love you. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon your children that this bread may be broken and gathered in love and this cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.*

#### Sharing of the Elements

*Let us in our many places  
receive the gift of God, the bread of heaven.*

**We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

*Let us with our many needs and many blessings,  
receive the gift of God, the cup of blessing.*

**We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** - Spirit of Christ, we give thanks for this grace, from our deep heritage of sanctuary Eucharists and community meals, and from our personal memories of many generous plates and your Holy Supper. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing or hope, and let us become your compassionate spoon, your safe refuge. May we be lifted up to serve you and all your children in the world. Amen

Music to Send Us Forth

*"God Will Take Care of You"*

1. Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
God will take care of you!  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you!

2. Lonely and sad, from friends apart,  
God will take care of you!  
God will give peace to your aching  
heart,  
God will take care of you!

**Refrain:** God will take care of you,  
Through every day o'er all the way;  
God will take care of you;  
God will take care of you!

**Refrain:** No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you!  
Lean, weary one, upon God's breast,  
God will take care of you

Benediction

Postlude

**THIS WEEK**

Monday, February 8	2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	WORSHIP/MUSIC (LIB) CHRISTIAN ED. (ZOOM)
Tuesday, February 9		
Wednesday, February 10		
Thursday February 11	7:00 p.m.	MISSION/SOCIAL ACTION (ZOOM)
Friday, February 12		
Saturday February 13		
Sunday, February 14	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1-2 p.m.	WORSHIP ZOOM FELLOWSHIP HOUR SOUP PICK-UP (UNDER PORTICO)

**In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning**

(please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

**Ongoing Needs**- Betty Hackenberg, Janet & Richard Heaton, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Linda Williams, Wayne Williams.

**Shut-In/Homebound**- Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Ethel Foor, Bill & Lola Fuller, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Loretta Roberson, Mary Stover, Amelia Troutman.

**Immediate Concerns** -Oliver Auman, Helen Barsh, Theresa Beers, Scot Bower, Christine Sartwell, Peg Swinehart, Samantha Wyvill, Megan Oxley, The Family of Nancy Sechler, The Family of Malinda & Burt Price.

**THE OUTWARD SIGNS**

January 31, 2021

2021 Soup Sale - \$14.00; Church Vocations Fund - \$10.00; College Boxes - \$11.00;  
Current Expenses - \$16,610.00; Envelope Expenses - \$8.00; Giant Gift Cards - \$250.00;  
LEAF Fund - \$25.00; Memorial Fund - \$25.00; OCWM - \$360.00;  
Sale of Parsonage - \$187,945.46; UCC Cornerstone Fund - \$118.16; Weis Gift Cards - \$550.00;  
**GRAND TOTAL - \$205,926.62 THANK YOU!**

**SECRET PAL DINNER** - Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the annual Secret Pal Dinner will not be held in February. There are, however, plans for a mid-Summer picnic if all goes well. We will keep you posted as plans develop.

**THE NEXT ZOOM FELLOWSHIP** - we will hold our next "monthly" Fellowship hour via ZOOM, on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. Please consider joining us for some "face-time" and fellowship. A link will be sent out closer to the date.

**Souperbowl of Caring SOUP SALE** - The Souperbowl of Caring is a nation-wide, grassroots program to address hunger, where every dollar raised stays completely local. Usually on the Sunday of The Big Game, the youth of St. John's UCC are stationed at the sanctuary doors with soup pots, ready to collect donations for the Souperbowl of Caring. This year will be a little different.

Would you like some homemade soup? Mark your calendars for a drive-through-style soup pick-up on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-2:00 PM, under the church portico. We will have 2 types of soup available, Chicken Corn and Vegetable Beef. Prices are: \$7.00/QT, \$4.00/pint. **All soup must be pre-ordered by TODAY, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 PM.** Please call the church office for more information and to place your pre-order. Please bring exact change or check, so we won't have to make change.

All proceeds of the soup sale will be donated to the Lewisburg Food Pantry. Please wear a mask during pick-up. If you are unable to pick up your soup, please let us know when you order, and we can arrange for delivery. Soup will already be refrigerated. All you need to do is reheat and eat!

**SPRING CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS** - When you are in college, it is always nice to know that you are remembered by your Church Family! Whether our college students are attending classes in-person or virtually, they could use a reminder that we are thinking of them. The Christian Education Committee will be preparing Spring Care Packages for our four college students: Keith, Ashley, Abigail, and Alex. Please consider contributing something that could easily be stored in a college dorm room or shared apartment. **Items can be dropped off at the church in the labeled basket across from the office. Please donate items by Sunday, February 28,** so that we can deliver them to the students by the middle of March. **ITEMS SUCH AS THESE ARE REQUESTED:** Granola, granola bars, protein bars, cereal bars, Goldfish crackers, Middleswarth potato chips, K-cups (regular dark roasts), peanut-butter-filled pretzels, peanut butter or cheese sandwich crackers, cookies, and any other sweet and/or salty snacks.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** - On February 17<sup>th</sup>, between 5 and 6 p.m., we will hold a "Drive Through" Ash Wednesday service, under the portico. As you stop on your way through you will be offered a gathering greeting, then stop for the Imposition of Ashes, at the next stop you will be offered Holy Communion, then at the last stop you will receive a blessing for your Lenten journey, including some devotional/reflection materials for the season. All of this will be done safely (low contact and masked).

**HELP NEEDED** -The Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program is looking for teen and adult volunteers to carry groceries at our Food Pantry distributions, from 1:15-3:30, on the first and third Friday of every month. We are located at the First Baptist Church at 51 South 3rd. Street in Lewisburg. Masks are required, and social distancing practices are in place. If you can carry a bag of groceries up a flight of steps please volunteer at an upcoming distribution on February 5 and 19 and March 5 and 19. Questions? Call Cindy at 570-523-6898.