



St. John's United Church of Christ
Virtual Worship & FM 88.5
First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021
10:00 a.m.

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

February 21, 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

Crossing the Threshold

Sung Response:

Vessels, holy and whole

Broken, needing the One

Open, body and soul

Healer, come.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Creator God, We are bodies fashioned by your hand in your own image, shapes and colors of diverse and immense beauty. And yet too often we have ignored the sacred nature of our physical lives.

The Holy Vessels you have fashioned are tired and suffering, ravaged by months of disrupted rhythms and ailment. Our fragility has come into full view and we are frightened. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from our own needs.

Help us, Healer. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Vessels, holy and whole

Broken, needing the One

Open, body and soul

Healer, come.

Assurance

Peace

Hymn #179

"We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

1. We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and
for your healing touch.
Too long have we felt helpless; our
burdens seemed too much.
Forgetting all pretenses, we make our
pleadings heard,
In hope and expectation await your
gracious word.

2. We long to have companions who travel
by our side,
Strong friends to call and answer with
whom we are allied;
As we lift up each other when struggles
lay us low,
Community develops, our faith and
caring grow.

3. We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,
A presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.

Words for All - Especially Children

Scripture: Matthew 8:1-4, 16-17

Special Music *"One Pair of Hands" - Roberson arr./performed by Ron Zug*

Message *"Yearning"*

We Pause to Pray *"Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole"*

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.

Ritual Action for the Week

Dedication of Gifts and Offerings:

God of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts to be bounty and blessings
to you, our church, and the world. Amen.

Music to Send Us Forth *"Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come (Saranam, saranam)"*

Refrain: Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly;
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.

2. O that I my vows to thee may pay,
and that by thy faithfulness to me each day
may live, and on thy love my burdens lay:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. Refrain

1. In the midst of foes, I cry to thee,
from the ends of earth wherever I may be;
my strength in helplessness, O answer me:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. Refrain

Benediction

Postlude

THIS WEEK

Monday, February 22		
Tuesday, February 23		
Wednesday, February 24	6:30 p.m.	TECHNOLOGY VISION TEAM (ZOOM)
Thursday February 25	6:30 p.m.	WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM)
Friday, February 26		
Saturday February 27		
Sunday, February 28	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP

In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning

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

Ongoing Needs- Theresa Beers, 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, Scot Bower, Christine Sartwell, Peg Swinehart, The Family of Nancy Sechler, The Family of Malinda Price.

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

February 14, 2021

2021 Soup Sale - \$385.00; 2021 Souper Bowl of Caring - \$200.00;
Ash Wednesday - \$5.00; Church Vocations Fund - \$151.00;
Current Expenses - \$4,922.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$515.00;
Memorial Fund -\$25.00; OCWM - \$535.00; Weis Card Sales - \$100.00;
GRAND TOTAL - \$6,838.00 THANK YOU!

WIRED WORD STUDY - we will be holding a ZOOM discussion/study based on materials from the Wired Word on **Thursday, February 25th, at 6:30 p.m.** Please register by calling the church office 570-523-0162, or email the office stjohnsucc@ptd.net. Register no later than Tuesday, February 23rd.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE - Just a reminder that orders for Easter flowers must be turned in to the office no later than **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH**. Extra order forms are available in the office.

SPRING CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS - The Christian Education Committee will be preparing Spring Care Packages for our four college students. 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.

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.