

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

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,
we are glad you are connecting with us today!!*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Joys & Concerns

Crossing the Threshold

Enter

Enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is *your* story

Enter the story

Enter

Come enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is *your* story

Enter the story

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: Let us pray together:

People: It is so hard to not be afraid.

**Sometimes our fear makes us less compassionate,
and more judgmental.**

**We think we can ward off getting hurt by holding back,
unwilling to risk putting ourselves out there for the sake of love.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Encourage us to extravagant acts of love,
especially when we are frightened.**

**You entered our story through Jesus,
now help us to enter fully into the story
of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Know this: There is no limit on love.

Love doesn't run out, and you can start giving more of it anytime.

You are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved by a God who wants you to live fully.

Let us enter the passion of Christ, and pass the peace of Christ with each other.

Passing of Peace

Children's Moment

Scripture *Psalm 23*

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Dwelling in the Story

Monologue - "She is Anointing Him"

(References from Mark 14:3-9, Matthew 26:6-13, John 12:1-8)



Sermon -

A Time for Love

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Song:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full on his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his wonder and grace

Let us continue to pray in the words that Jesus taught 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.

Symbolically Offering Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (together):

These gifts are our fruit, O God of all fields. Each giver has made the choice between life and death, blessings and curses. We choose blessing. We choose life. May God's promises be fulfilled through the harvest of God's garden in these our gifts. Amen.

Hymn The Servant Song

Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on the journey
We are travelers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days #211 (st. 1 &3)
Lord Jesus, who through forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Christ with us abide.

Postlude