



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Welcome Back to In-person Worship
Also on Facebook & FM 88.5
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.***

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m. May 2, 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 Prayer Concerns

Threshold

Response: **Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again.**

*Call to Worship:

Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Look around and see that you do not dance alone.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

*Hymn #497 ***"Guide My Feet"*** (verses 1, 2, 4)

*Prayer - Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation - Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness. Give us courage and patience. Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek You - so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ. Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Words for All - Especially Children

Scripture: **Acts 8:26-39**

Special Music

Message ***"Guidance"***

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.**

Sharing our Joys and Celebrations

Dedication of Gifts and Offerings: Loving God, bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give. May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity You envision for the world. Amen.

Order for Holy Communion

Will you open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table? If so, say, "Open us to your grace, Lord."

Open us to your grace, Lord."

Will you open yourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ?

If so, say, "Open us to your call, Lord."

"Open us to your call, Lord."

Will you open yourselves to the possibility of transformation through Jesus Christ?

If so, say, "Transform us, O Lord."

"Transform us, O Lord."

As we prepare to attend the heavenly feast, we especially pray for those who have no earthly tables, or no place at a table, and so little daily bread.

We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all. In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession..

Assurance of Forgiveness:

God has loved you from the very beginning. The invitation of Christ is never-ending. The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen!

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. *Please greet each other as the Body of Christ as you pass the peace of Christ with one another with a wave.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Jesus is with us!

With us now and forever!

So, lift up your hearts and voices!

We lift them up to God!

Let us join in thanks and praise!

How right it is to do this together!

Holy Living One, You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation. You breathed life all around and called it good. You invited us to the wonder of it all and when we could not face You, You turned us around. You keep bringing us around and around, time and again, offering the chance to join the freedom-dance. And so, we join with the glorious chorus of Saints past and present, joining in speaking a hymn of praise, saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy! God of power and might, everywhere we see your glory! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna! Alleluia! Amen!

Indeed, you are holy ...he sat at the table with extended family- ...

... And so, my friends, we remember. And we believe:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

Pour out your Spirit upon us now! Pour out your transforming presence on the gifts of this body and the gifts of this bread and fruit of the vine. May they be for us your life and love, uniting us as one body—Christ's body—for the sake of loving the world. All glory to you, Living Presence, Holy One, Holy God, through Jesus our Christ and the Holy Spirit our Advocate. Amen.

Communion - *You're invited to dine - and to dance. The table extends beyond this physical space and into the space of the Spirit that unites us. This song of invitation asks us, "Come, won't you dance, come, won't you dine, and take down the wall between your heart and mine?" May we respond with "Yes!" as we receive these gifts together.*

(Sharing the elements)

***The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Together):** We give thanks to You, God, for this holy meal. Simple and powerful. Refreshing and recreating. May we hear Your call, and truly love one another as You have loved us. Strengthen Your claim on us: one body, many members, the Body of Christ. Amen.

*Hymn #522

"I Love to Tell the Story" (verses 1,3,4)

*Benediction

*Postlude

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, Bill & Lola Fuller, Jane Hayes, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Loretta Roberson, Mary Stover, Amelia Troutman.

Immediate Concerns -Oliver Auman, Scott Bower, Joyce, Maryjane H., Carol Hahn, Christine Sartwell, Peg Swinehart,

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 3	7:00 p.m.	HOSPITALITY COMM. (FH)
Tuesday, May 4		
Wednesday, May 5		
Thursday May 6	1 - 2:30pm 7:00 p.m.	Evan. Hosp. Support Group (PAV) BUILDINGS/GROUNDS (ZOOM)
Friday, May 7		
Saturday May 8	12:00 p.m.	Pavilion rsvd. By member
Sunday, May 9	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	WORSHIP, MOTHERS' DAY ZOOM FELLOWSHIP

THE OUTWARD SIGNS

April 25, 2021

Chancel Flowers - \$42.00; Clean-up Kits - \$300.00; Current Expenses - \$1,220.00;
Habitat for Humanity - \$25.00; Improvements/Maintenance - \$25.00; Loose Offering - \$40.00;
OCWM - \$370.00; OGHS - \$81.00; Recycling - \$51.00;
GRAND TOTAL - \$2,154.00 THANK YOU!

CHANCEL FLOWERS - Have been given to the Glory of God, by Sue and Jim Tomlinson.

CHANCEL FLOWERS - There are MANY dates available on the Chancel Flower Chart. Please consider stopping by the chart and sign up to sponsor a single vase (\$21.00) or both vases (\$42.00).

ACOLYTE HELP NEEDED - We are searching for a few people aged 10 - 99, to be acolytes for our Sunday worship services. If you are someone who feels comfortable attending in-person worship, and think you'd like to help out, please reach out to Pastor Alice or Todd. (570) 523-0162.

CLEAN-UP KITS - Church World Services is in need of clean-up kits for disaster relief. We are accepting monetary donations for Church World Services to complete the kits needed. The cost of one Clean-up Kit is \$75.00. ANY donations will be greatly appreciated.

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES - Hartman Center Spirit Week, **When:** Saturday, August 8 - Saturday, August 14 **Where:** Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, PA. Brochures are available in the Narthex.

Also available, summer camp brochures for camps Kirchenwald & Nawakwa. Penn Central has partnered with the Lutheran Camping Corporation, with a variety of camping options available from mid-June, through August. Scholarship support is available through our congregation, and through Penn Central Conference. Questions? Please talk with Pastor Alice.