

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**October 18, 2020**  
**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Gathering Words

*"This is the Day"*

Unison Welcome

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

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

*"The peace of Christ be with you"*

*"And also with you"*

Chiming of the Trinity

Opening Music (Praise Team)

*"Awesome God"*

Rich Mullins

Solemn Declaration

Call to Worship

*from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2: Liturgical Resources for Year A*

Praise the Lord; praise God, O my soul! Let us praise God as long as we live.

**God alone is worthy of our devotion; we will sing praise to God all our life long.**

Happy are those whose hope is in God, who labor in steadfast faith and love.

**God lifts up those who are bowed down; prisoners are freed, and the blind see.**

Grace to you and peace, from God whose care we know. Worship now, giving to God all that belongs to God.

**We bring all that we are to this time of worship. Praise God for the joy inspired by the Holy Spirit.**

Musical Meditation (Praise Team)

*"Lord Be Glorified"*

Bob Kilpatrick

Call to Confession

*adapted from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2, Year A*

Before God, whose reign is forever, we bow down to confess our narrow vision, our limited response, and our self-serving plans.

Prayer of Confession

*from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2: Liturgical Resources for Year A*

**We confess, O God, that we have not fulfilled the tasks for which you have chosen us.**

**We have failed to share the joy of faith. We have neglected to learn and pray and**

**witness to your living presence among us. You have not received our full loyalty and**

**devotion. We have found idols to occupy the time you have given us. O God, help us to refocus our energies and reclaim the mission you set before us. Amen.**

Kyrie (spoken rather than sung)

Hymnal Companion C-4

Words of Assurance

*from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2: Liturgical Resources for Year A*

By God's grace, we are empowered to recognize and live by new priorities. We can set aside the distractions that rob life of its true purpose. God lifts up those who are bowed down and redirects those who have followed destructive paths. Receive God's forgiveness, and rejoice in God's love. **Amen.**

Glory Be to the Father #704 (spoken rather than sung)

Reception of New Members – Bob and Diana Macfarlane; David Taylor		(on screen)
Scripture Reading	Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	
Children’s Sermon		Roxanne Davenport
Musical Meditation (Praise Team)	<i>“I Love You Lord”</i>	Laurie Klein
Scripture Reading		Matthew 22:15-22
Sermon		Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Sharing of Joys and Concerns		
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (debts)		
Musical Meditation (Praise Team)	<i>“El Shaddai”</i>	John W. Thompson
Invitation to Giving		
Commission & Benediction		
Sending Music (Praise Team)	<i>“He Is Exalted”</i>	Twila Paris

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**Special Thanks** to everyone who made our worship this morning possible.

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“El Shaddai” CCLI Song #26856 © 1981, 1982 Mole End Music  
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Please join us from 2-3 pm for our **Virtual Fellowship Hour** on Zoom. Our meeting ID is 996-0673-0934 and passcode is 900771. You can also join us using this [direct link](#).

**Worship Resources:**

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If you are ill, have a temperature, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you remain at home.