

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**November 22, 2020**  
**Reign of Christ Sunday**  
**Totenfest**

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

Prelude

Solemn Declaration

Opening Words

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

The Lord God is our shepherd.

**We are the people of God's pasture,  
the sheep of God's hand.**

God will seek the lost,  
feed the hungry,  
and strengthen the weak.

**But the proud and power-hungry  
will be fed with justice.**

Musical Meditation

Prayer of the Day

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

**God of majesty, you love us with an everlasting love and show us the way to justice and peace. In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the whole world to you and claimed us as your own, that we may live as his body on earth and, with all the saints, enter into your glory on the last day. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

**Holy God, open your Word. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that our eyes may be enlightened and we may know the hope to which we have been called; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23

Children's Sermon

Roxanne Davenport

Musical Meditation

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

Service of Totenfest

(attached and on screen)

Anthem

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts)

Musical Meditation

Invitation to Giving

Commission & Benediction

Postlude

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**Worship Resources:**

Prayers have been reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion* © 2013.

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

Join us for a **Virtual Fellowship Hour** on Zoom this Sunday from 2-3 pm. Our Meeting ID is 915-5434-6169 and Passcode is 593526. The direct link will be posted on our website.

## **A Litany for Totenfest**

Pastor: Blessed God, in the holy silence of these moments of Totenfest, our hearts and minds and souls are filled with gratitude for all your love and mercy shown to us in the course of our lifetimes.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: We thank you for claiming us as your own in the waters of baptism.

**People: Thanks be to God the Father!**

Pastor: We thank you for nourishing us at your holy table.

**People: Thanks be to God the Son!**

Pastor: We thank you for moving us to affirm our faith in you as our Creator, in Christ as our redeemer, and in the Holy Spirit as our sustainer.

**People: Thanks be to God the Spirit!**

Pastor: We thank you for calling us into the church. We thank you for each other and for all our sisters and brothers everywhere who share with us in the Christian faith.

**People: For together we are the Body of Christ and individually members of it.**

**Psalm 23 (unison)**

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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 goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

Pastor: We thank you for those of this family of faith who in the past year have traveled through the valley of the shadow of death to live with you in the realm of eternal life:

<i>Esther Shaffer</i>	<i>Arthur "Bud" Brown</i>	<i>Robert Dilling</i>	<i>Lois Strayer</i>	<i>Gaylord "Pete" Peters</i>
<i>Susan Leshner</i>	<i>John Gaal</i>	<i>David Slothower</i>	<i>Ruth "Boots" Small</i>	<i>Ame Norcross</i>
<i>Christina Sollenberger</i>		<i>Jerry Angulo</i>	<i>Betty Monastra</i>	

**People: Thanks be to God for their lives among us!**

Pastor: We thank you for all the men, women, and children who shared in the life of St. John's in the past, who helped shape our congregation, and who now cheer us on from the heavenly realms. (silence)

Pastor: We thank you for all the others who have touched our lives with the things of faith and hope and love, and who are also at home with you, whom we now remember in our hearts. (silence)

Pastor: We thank you for all those, unknown to us but known to you, who have brightened and enriched our world in which we live. (silence)

**All: Gracious God, may the assurance of your love and the memory of those who have gone home to you brighten our days, energize our work and witness, and bring us at the last to the time and place where all your people shout together: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God reigns. Let us exult and rejoice and give God the glory!"**

<i>Esther Shaffer (November 28, 2019)</i>	
<i>Arthur "Bud" Brown (December 26, 2019)</i>	<i>Robert Dilling (December 29, 2019)</i>
<i>Lois Strayer (February 21, 2020)</i>	<i>Gaylord "Pete" Peters (February 27, 2020)</i>
<i>Susan Leshner (March 5, 2020)</i>	<i>John Gaal (May 19, 2020)</i>
<i>David Slothower (June 13, 2020)</i>	<i>Ruth "Boots" Small (July 7, 2020)</i>
<i>Ame Norcross (July 10, 2020)</i>	<i>Christina Sollenberger (October 18, 2020)</i>
<i>Jerry Angulo (November 4, 2020)</i>	<i>Betty Monastra (November 4, 2020)</i>