

St. John's United Church of Christ
September 26, 2021
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please stand as you are able, in body or in Spirit.

Gathering Song (words on screen)

"Find a Home Here"

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"

Prelude

*Call to Worship

from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship

God's wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.

Our wisdom is none of these things. We compete for knowledge, and our learning fosters belligerence. Our understanding is insufficient and our compassion limited. We long for certainty and sacrifice too much for its sake. We strive only for conditional sincerity.

The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

We cannot know with God's wisdom, nor always walk in God's righteousness, but we can come together to share our thoughts, to read Scripture, to sing, to pray, and to make peace.

Let us worship together.

*Hymn #312

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Hymnal Companion C-4

Words of Assurance

from the UCC Book of Worship

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. **We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Glory Be to the Father #704

Anthem

“Rescue the Perishing”

Scripture Reading

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20

Children’s Sermon

Roxanne Davenport

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:38-50

Sermon

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

Musical Meditation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Our Savior (debts)

*Hymn #33

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

*Invitation to Giving

*Commission & Benediction

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Let the name of Christ be the word you speak, the grace you show, and the love you share.

May the spirit of the Lord rest upon you, the word of the Lord live within you, and the glory of the Lord shine around you, this day and always.

Postlude

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

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of Leonard and Esther Zeger and Robert and Elva Dilling with love from Marvin and Linda Zeger.

Worship Resources: Portions of the liturgy were adapted from *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, the *UCC Book of Worship* and *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.

Worship Participants	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman
Organist	Gloria Crum
Deacon in Charge	Mike Blumberg
Lector	Diana Macfarlane
Children’s Sermon	Roxanne Davenport
Hospitality Team	
Media Coordinator	Scott and Ginny Cairns