



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
November 19, 2023***

OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"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 *"Peace be with you"* ***"and with all the people of the world"***

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from enfleshed

We, of many backgrounds and identities, personalities, and ideas, gather collectively in shared pursuit of the Sacred.

Together, we make up the body of Christ.

Whenever one of us is in pain,

our whole body aches.

Whenever one of us is cut off,

the whole body is wounded.

Whoever is kept away by discriminatory policies or practices or prejudices,

Our collective soul suffers the loss of their presence.

We need one another in order to be whole.

God make us the body of Christ as you envisioned.

May we become your presence enfleshed, in service to the world and one another.

Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

"Sing a New World into Being"

Bringle/Hehn

***UNISON PRAYER**

from enfleshed

God, we look for you all around us but always, you are as close as our own breath.

You linger in our very flesh. Forgive us for our struggles to remember you linger,

also, in the flesh of our neighbors. The ones attacked, the ones policed, the ones

condemned, the ones who are hungry, the ones turned away. In those we wound,

you are wounded also, but when we honor the flesh of another, you are honored

too. May it be so in us, Amen.

ANTHEM

"I Choose Love"

Mark Miller

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20; Isaiah 56:1-8

RESPONSIVE LITANY

written by Kimi Floyd Reisch (adapted)

Each of us is created with worth, imbued with dignity.

We are the representation of God's love in the world.

We are diverse in our experiences, vast in our manifestation of how love looks.

Our families are all different, but each represents and honors the many ways that your people live and love.

Our lives are enriched when LGBTQ+ people are welcomed and affirmed in our churches and communities.

Our lives are enriched when our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous neighbors are affirmed.

Your words, shared in Scripture, call us to be a people of justice.

We all suffer when any LGBTQ+ person is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.

When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us.

Until we are all free, none of us are free.

May we work to build a world where all people are affirmed with love.

May we share this message of love and blessing with the world.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(liturgy on screen)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-18, 21

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

REAFFIRMATION OF ST. JOHN'S UCC COVENANT OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

N. Aaron Hartman

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Will Change Your Name"

Butler

RECOGNITION OF TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & SILENCE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING SONG

"Love Astounding"

Lindholm

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from enflashed

Spirit of Justice, we offer to you our resources in all their forms that you might put this community to work in enfleshing your love in this aching world. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

"Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us"

Damon

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

from enfleshed

Friends, we are not called to be reckless with our lives but we are sent into a world that requires risk-taking. As followers of Christ, may you go in a Spirit of Courage to bear witness to life in God. Disrupt oppression. Tell your story. Be vulnerable. Choose love.

SENDING SONG

The “Nursery Nook in the Narthex” quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available. See the deacon for assistance.

Our **Fall Congregational Meeting** will be held directly after worship this morning.

Birthdays this week: 11/22 Gerald Shipp

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Pianist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Cathy Kinton
Lector	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Ginny Cairns
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in honor of our 68th wedding anniversary by John and Nina Widmann.

St. John’s Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ as a congregation that welcomes everyone, and seeks service that will advance God’s realm on earth.

St. John’s Mission

To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

enfleshed

Open and Affirming Coalition resources written by Mak Kneebone and Kimi Floyd Reisch

NEWS IN THE PEWS November 19, 2023

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday, November 20

5:30 pm Cooking Class – Kitchen
6:30 pm Bible and a Beer – Trojan Diner
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall / Scout Room 207

Tuesday, November 21

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall / Scout Room 207

Thursday, November 23

HAPPY THANKSGIVING – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, November 26

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119
8:45 am Spark! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115
8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Youth Room 206
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116
10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

Christmas Poinsettias We are now taking orders for our Christmas Poinsettias. Order forms can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Please have order forms completed and returned to the office by **Monday, December 4, 2023**.

Salvation Army Angel Tree the tags are on the tree in the lobby. The gifts need to be returned by Friday, December 1 to the church office. The gifts will be dedicated on Sunday, December 4.

Christmas Cookie Walk Our Christmas cookie walk is scheduled for Saturday, December 2. Proceeds benefit homeless children in the Chambersburg Area School District. Information and sign up sheet will be in the lobby.

Chambers Bell Fest Will be Sunday, December 10, 2023, 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Thank you to all our volunteers that helped with our Habitat Book Sale! While final figures will take a while to calculate, we've exceeded our 2022 totals. We couldn't have done it without you!

Wired Word Copies of the Wired Word that is the focus of the adult church school class are available weekly at the welcome center. All are welcome to join us Sundays at 8:45 am.

St. John's T-Shirts and hoodies are on sale now!! \$12 for t-shirts and \$25 for hoodies. Sizes range from small to 2XL. Stop by the office to order yours today!

Did You Know that there are a variety of ways that you can automate your giving? Talk with Scot Orndorff (Treasurer), Jerry Thomason (Assistant Treasurer) or Loretta Zimmerman (Office Manager) to discuss various ways of giving that support the mission and ministry of St. John's.

Prayer Chain For many people, participating in the prayer chain has become a real source of comfort and a way of knowing they can help others through the power of prayer. For others it is a source of comfort to know that fellow siblings in Christ are praying for them. If you would like to participate in the prayer chain please contact the church office at (717) 263-8593.

Plastic Bag Collection SCCAP's produce stand is in need of plastic grocery bags to help distribute fresh produce to folks in our community. You can donate your plastic bags here at the church and we'll take them to SCCAP or you can donate them to SCCAP directly. Thanks for supporting SCCAP and efforts in our community to make sure everyone has healthy, fresh food.

Staff Christmas Gift It is the tradition at St. John's United Church of Christ to have a special offering Envelope designated for Christmas Gifts for Church Staff. Our staff are a true blessing to our church & if you wanted to take part in this please submit this to the church office and in the MEMO line of your check be sure to say "**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT**". We need this by **Sunday, December 11, 2023** in Order for our staff to receive this by Christmas. Thank you!

Sing a New World into Being

Mary Louise Bringle

NETTLETON
Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813

1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lead your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

Love Astounding

Jeannette M. Lindholm

HOLY MANNA
William Moore, Columbian Harmony 1825



1. Love a - stound - ing, Love con - found - ing — lim - its — fear - ful minds im - pose.
2. Love re - ceiv - ing Love be - liev - ing, — we re - joice with thanks and song,



Love re - new - ing, Love pur - su - ing — ev - ery heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain - ing, hope pro - claim - ing; — Love has taught us, we be - long



Love's trans - form - ing, heal - ing — good - ness, Love's a - bid - ing gen - tle — grace,
safe with - in Love's ten - der — keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent — cal.



Love's en - dur - ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing strong em - brace.
Love de - fend - ing, Love un - end - ing, — Love of — God en - fold - ing all.

Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us

Unison F Dm B \flat B \flat /C

1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your
 2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha - tred, run - ning like a
 3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -

F F F/E Dm Dm/C B \flat B \flat /C

voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -
 thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us
 spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

F Refrain Am Am/C Dm Dm/C B \flat

joice.
 dead. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's
 fair.

B \flat /C C Dm Am/C B \flat F/A Gm7 B \flat /C F

power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon

BEACH SPRING

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Daniel Charles Damon

8.7.8.7.Ref.

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