



***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
June 14, 2026***

## **RUTH: GLEANING AND HOPE**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

*"This is the Day"*

### **GATHERING SONG**

### **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**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual*

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

**for all are welcome in God's house.**

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,

**for love is the language of faith.**

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,

**for God dwells in each of us.**

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

### **\*HYMN #345**

*"When Morning Gilds the Skies"*

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

To you, O God, we sing our praises and utter our prayers, confessing the ways we have fallen short. Let us seek forgiveness and assurance from the One who knows and loves all.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*adapted from Gathered by Love*

**How easily we forget you, O God of our salvation. We imagine that our prosperity is of our own design. We wander into paths of self-righteousness and greed. We fail to care for those around us and neglect to provide for our neighbors. O God, rescue us from all that would alienate us from others and from you. We humble ourselves and seek your forgiveness.**

### **KYRIE**

Hymnal Companion C-4

### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

*adapted from Gathered by Love*

God inspires our confession and invites our trust. God grants us forgiveness and grace. Trusting in God, we are equipped to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and to keep the faith. Be glad and rejoice in God.

### **\*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Deuteronomy 24:19-22; Luke 6:36-38

**RESPONSIVE READING**

*"Her Masterpieces" (a remix of Psalm 65)*

Morning by morning, new mercies:

**the Artist of the Universe paints across a wide expansive canvas of sky;**

Infinite color combinations expand, contract, fade away, and disappear.

**How beautiful are her masterpieces;**

**And then again for evensong – a double blessing!**

What am I to make of this miraculous art-making,

**the beauty that catches the breath in my throat,**

knowing that no matter where we are in the world,

**my loved one and I stare in wonder at the same sky?**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

(please follow along on the insert/screen)

Oscar Wolfe

Aaron and Jacklyn Wolfe, parents

**HYMN #C-36**

*"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Roxanne Davenport

*Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Ruth 2:1-23

**SERMON**

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**APOSTLES' CREED: AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Hymnal Companion C-10

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**INVITATION TO GIVING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*adapted from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

**O Gracious God, bless our offering that it may reach and touch those who hunger, who hurt, who mourn, who seek new hope. As part of the global village, we care about all of our sisters and brothers and siblings. We pray for peace and justice, for liberty to those oppressed, for joy to those who are weary. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**\*HYMN #371**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

**\*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE (seated)**

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.

**Birthdays this week:** 06/16 Mary Lynn Cate; 6/17 Lynda Thomason; 06/19 Jill Miller; 06/20 Tom Kinton; 06/21 Kerry Miller and Lynda Pound.

<b>Worship Participants:</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Diana Kongkeattikul
Lector	Bill Slothower
Children's Corner	Mindy Orndorff
Media Coordinators	Chris Willman-Bunge and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given in memory of David Slothower by Bill and Joanne Slothower.



**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:**

*Call to Worship adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Grace adapted from Gathered by Love by Lavon Bayler*

*"Her Masterpieces" by Kentina Washington-Leapheart, included in "The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle" edited by Martha Spong*

*Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi*

# When Morning Gilds the Skies

345

1. When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,  
 2. The night be - comes as day, when from the heart we say,  
 3. Ye realms of hu - man - kind, in this your con - cord find:  
 4. In heaven's e - ter - nal bliss the love - liest strain is this,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer,  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark - ness fear,  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let earth, and sea, and sky

to Je - sus I re - pair; may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 when this sweet song they hear, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 from depth to height re - ply, may Je - sus Christ be praised!

WORDS: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1828; tr. Edward Caswall (st. 1, 2, 4), 1854;  
 tr. Robert Bridges (st. 3), 1899  
 MUSIC: Joseph Barnby, 1868

LAUDES DOMINI  
 6.6.6.6.6.6  
 Lower key, No. 229

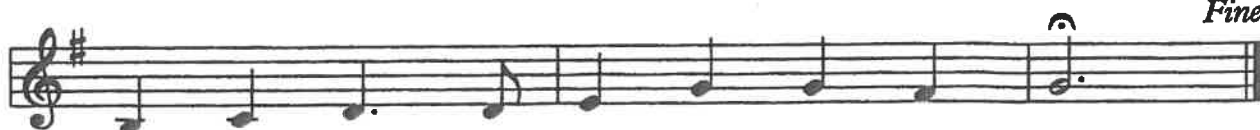
## I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry



1. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 3. "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was  
 5. "In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too  
 7. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold."



2. I was there when you were but a child, with a  
 4. If you find some-one to share your time and you  
 6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you  
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

D.C.



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.  
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

## Now Thank We All Our God

371

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice, es,  
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;  
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
 the Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who, from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way  
 and keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

**Baptism of Oscar Wolfe**  
**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**June 14, 2026**

**Welcome**

Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

**Address**

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It also shows the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

**This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

We invite Oscar Wolfe to come forward with his parents Aaron and Jacklyn Wolfe to be baptized.

**Questions of the Candidate**

Oscar, do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ. **I do.**

Aaron and Jacklyn, are you ready with God's help to guide and encourage Oscar by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to following in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We are.**

Oscar, do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?  
**I do.**

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? **I do.**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? **I promise, with the help of God.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world? **I promise, with the help of God.**

### **Congregational Assent**

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

**We promise our love, support, and care.**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

### **Prayer of Baptism**

Christ be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

### **Act of Baptism**

Oscar, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Holy Spirit be upon you, Oscar, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

### **Prayer for the Baptized**

Let us pray for the one baptized today.

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized person. May he be filled with joy; may he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **NEWS IN THE PEWS June 14, 2026**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto:manager@sjucc1811.org) (717) 263-8593 (office)  
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist  
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth  
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

**TODAY: NO Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes – (will begin on Sunday, July 26)**

#### **Monday, June 15**

1:30 pm **No Monday Afternoon Book Study (Chapter 4) (will resume on 6/22)**  
6:30 pm Bible & Beer – Trojan Diner

#### **Tuesday, June 16**

10:00 am Summer Singers Practice – Fellowship Hall  
5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

#### **Friday, June 19**

Church Office Closed- In Observance of Juneteenth

#### **Sunday, June 21**

8:45 am K-12 Faith and Fellowship – Youth Room 206  
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class  
8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class  
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary  
8:00 pm Bible Study will resume on **Sunday, July 26**

**Camp Cooks** (kitchen helpers) are needed for June 22 – 26. Please, sign-up to help in the kitchen at camp. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome center counter in the front lobby. Volunteers will be helping under the direction of Kirk Johnson. Thank you for supporting St. John's Camp!

**Summer Special Music** A sign up is posted on the choir room door for those who would like to help provide special music in worship this summer. This can be singing or playing a musical instrument. Contact Gary Crum to learn more. Thank you for sharing your talents!

**Pastoral Coverage** Pastor Caroline will be away June 15-18 for professional development. Rev. Julia Brown of Solomon's UCC in Chambersburg is "on call." If a pastoral emergency arises, please contact the church office and they will get your message to Pastor Julia. Pastor Caroline will return to lead worship on Sunday, June 21.

**Progress on our Parking Lots** As the work on our parking lots progresses, we ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate the many moving parts. Special e-blasts will be sent out as needed, especially with directions on where to park during the week and on Sundays.

**Summer Church School Classes** Both the Wired Word and Upper Room adult church school classes will meet throughout the summer. Additionally, we will offer a K-12 Faith and Fellowship opportunity in the youth room for our young people to continue their Christian Education. Please see Diana Kongkeattikul or Roxanne Davenport if you have questions re: Faith and Fellowship.

**Summer Snacks for NETWORK Ministry** Collection boxes for non-perishable snacks to share with the kids at NETWORK Ministry are located in the front lobby. A list of suggested items to donate is posted on the bulletin boards and is listed in the June Spirit.

**Vacation Bible School** Our VBS wish list for Snowball Mountain challenge includes: snow sports equipment; white poly-fill stuffing/batting; Styrofoam balls 3" diameter and larger; white sheets; Styrofoam medication coolers; and a snowflake projector (commonly used outside on houses). A grocery cart to collect these items is in the lobby. Contact Roxanne with questions. VBS Work Days are scheduled after worship on Sunday, June 28 and Sunday, July 12.

**Bible and a Beer** is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be June 15.

**Summer Prayer Gatherings** Join us at 8:45 on Sunday, July 12 at the Peace Pole. Please bring your own chair. We will also gather at St. John's Camp at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 22. Come and enjoy a time of praying together in nature!

**An Evening of Food, Fun, and Fellowship** with all three congregations worshipping at St. John's will be held on Saturday, June 13, 4-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share. The sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

**Summer Quarter First Fruits** in May, June, and July will support the Race Against Poverty (RAP), Maranatha Ministry, and United Way's Stuff the Bus. More information about these organizations is included in the Spirit. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday Night Bible Study** Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes. Due to Pastor Caroline's schedule, we will be taking a break for a few weeks and will begin studying Ecclesiastes on **July 26**. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

**Monday Afternoon Book Study** We will read Chapter 4 of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, June 22, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

**July/August Upper Room** devotionals are currently available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

**Want to Stay in Touch?** Contact the Church Office to be added to our email list! You can sign up to receive our regular weekly emails, Diana's Devotionals, and/or be part of the Prayer Chain.