



***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
July 12, 2026***

## ***HYMN SING***

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

### **GATHERING SONG**

*"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**

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

*adapted from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

Praise be to God who reigns above the heavens.

**Praise be to God who dwells within our hearts.**

Let the majesty of creation worship in reverence.

**Let each person pray in faith.**

May we testify to God's goodness and grace.

**Let us be filled with the Spirit's power!**

### **\*HYMN #561**

*"Shall We Gather at the River"*

### **\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*written by Rev. Leah Lyman Waldron*

**Through scripture and through song, O God, we come into a deeper awareness of your presence with us. Meet us here in beloved melodies and lyrics, that through time spent with your Spirit, our spirits might be restored and our hearts sustained. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **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*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*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**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**RESPONSIVE READING**

*"Your Works All Praise You" (a remix of Psalm 76)*

O God, your works all praise you throughout all time and space.

**Creation made for goodness, with each thing in its place.**

Your mercy is our homeland; your grace gives us our name.

**We tremble at your power, revealed in cloud and flame.**

O Lord, when you are angry, before you who can stand?

**Our sin is spread before us, destruction out of hand.**

We crave your intervention, the healing from above.

**Come down and dwell among us, pour out your holy love.**

Divine and gentle Spirit, come with us on our way.

**Speak that we may all hear it, thy holy will convey.**

We seek to serve and praise you in all our words and deeds.

**Guide us to better living, as wheat among the weeds.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"If We Only Have Love"*

Judy Hodges, soloist

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Roxanne Davenport

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

**HYMN SING**

*We'll sing two verses of hymns that people in the congregation requested.*

*This idea was so well received that we'll do it again -  
so if we don't sing your requested hymn today, we will on another Sunday.*

***Please consult the insert for the hymn numbers and verses we'll sing today***

**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**

*written by Rev. Leah Lyman Waldron*

**Bless these offerings, Lord, that in giving generously and joyously we might draw closer to you. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #573**

*"It is Well with My Soul"*

**\*COMMISSION & BENECTION**

**POSTLUDE (seated)**

*Join us a time of fellowship after worship!*

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:** 07/13 Annabella Burns, Elizabeth Nutter and William Slothower; 07/15 Alexis Reichelderfer; 07/16 Charles Reichelderfer.

<b>Worship Participants:</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Lay Leaders	Harold Collier and Jerry Thomason
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Diana Kongeattikul
Lector	Clyde Shiraki
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given in memory of the Horn Family Norman, Helen, Mary, Evelyn and Margaretta by Kenneth and Doreen Horn.

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

*Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Dedication written by Rev. Leah Lyman Waldron*

*UCC Book of Worship*

*"Your Works All Praise You" by Julia Seymour, included in "The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggled," edited by Martha Spong*

# 561 Shall We Gather at the River

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;  
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

# C-4

# Kyrie

## Lord, Have Mercy on Us

KYRIE

Traditional: 6th century

John Ylvisaker, 1971

Em D B7 Em  
Lord, have mer-cy on us. . . Lord, have mer-cy on us. . .

Em D B7 Em  
Christ, have mer-cy on us. . . Christ, have mer-cy on us. . .

Em D B7 Em  
Lord, have mer-cy on us. . . Lord, have mer-cy on us. . .

This Kyrie may be sung responsively.

Used by permission; c 1985 John Ylvisaker, Box 321, Waverly Iowa 50677; (319) 352-4396.

## Lord, Have Mercy

Unison D Bm F#m Bm A G G/B  
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

D G Bsus Bm Asus A D  
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

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# July 12 Hymn Sing Selections

*We'll sing 2 verses of each of the following hymns*

#51 "On Eagle's Wings" (v. 1 & 2)

#57 "Be Still, My Soul" (v. 1 & 2)

#102 "Joy to the World" (v. 1 & 2)

#148 "What Child is This" (v. 1 & 3)

#186 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (v. 1 & 4)

#595 "At the Cross" (v. 1 & 2)

#618 "Love Lifted Me" (v. 1 & 2)

#619 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" (v. 1 & 3)

#627 "Victory in Jesus" (v. 1 & 2)

#194 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (v. 1 & 2)

#196 "Alleluia No. 1" (v. 1 & 2)

#349 "To God Be the Glory" (v. 1 & 3)

## Creeds and Affirmations of Faith

### **Apostles' Creed: An Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate;  
He was crucified, died and was buried.  
He went to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again,  
entered into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life eternal. Amen.

### **Nicene Creed: An Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,

Continued on next page.

# It Is Well with My Soul

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my  
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should  
 3. My sin — oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be

way, when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what -  
 come, let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that  
 thought: my sin, not in part, but the whole — is  
 sight, the clouds, be rolled back as a scroll, the

ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is  
 Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and has  
 nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, praise the  
 trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend, "E - ven

well, it is well with my soul."  
 shed His own blood for my soul. It is well with my  
 Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well  
 so" — it is well with my soul.

573 Continued

TESTIMONY

soul,  
with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

### **NEWS IN THE PEWS July 12, 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)**  
VBS Work Day after Worship – Fellowship Hall (lunch provided)

#### **Monday, July 13**

**1:30 pm NO Afternoon Book Study - (Chapter 5) - (Will resume on July 20)**

#### **Tuesday, July 14**

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

#### **Thursday, July 16**

11:00 am Piano Tuning - Sanctuary

#### **Sunday, July 19**

8:45 am K-12 Faith and Fellowship – Youth Room 206  
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116  
8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class – Conference Room 111  
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

**Pastoral Coverage** Pastor Caroline will be on vacation July 6-18. Rev. Danielle Neff of Trinity UCC in Waynesboro is "on call." If a pastoral emergency arises, please contact the church office and they will get your message to Pastor Dani. Pastor Caroline will return to lead worship on **Sunday, July 19.**

**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!

**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.

**Gratitude Sunday** on Sunday, August 30 will be a celebration of "This is Us": who we are and sharing what we love about our church! Please share photos in advance or bring them with you. We will have a pancake breakfast at 8:45 in Fellowship Hall, with worship to follow at 10 am.

**Summer Prayer Gatherings** Thank you to everyone who gathered at the labyrinth and peace pole this summer. Our final summer prayer gathering will be held at St. John's Camp at 9:30 am on **Saturday, August 22**. A sign-up sheet is at the welcome center.

**Monday Afternoon Book Study** We will read Chapter 5 of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, **July 20**, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation.

**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 July/August 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.

**Summer Singers in Concert** Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 27, 3 PM** as the Summer Singers perform here at St. John's UCC. Bring your family and friends and come to be blessed!

**Sweet Treats: Ice Cream Social** We are planning an ice cream social for **Sunday, August 16** after worship. If you would like to bring homemade ice cream or baked goods, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We'll beat the summer heat by enjoying the A/C and a sweet treat!

**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.

**Stuff the Bus** The collection of physical items for United Way's "Stuff the Bus" school supply drive will run **July 6-31**. Please look for the boxes in the vestibules and consider contributing through the First Fruits offerings.

**Blessing of the Animals** will be held outside on Sunday, August 9. Your pets are invited to come in person or via photo as we bless and give thanks for our animal companions.

**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 **Sunday, July 26**. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

**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.