

So Many



Questions

Pre-Worship Meditation: Though Nicodemus is confused after this encounter with Jesus, he'll remain faithful to him even unto death. Nicodemus is one of the faithful disciples who, along with Joseph of Arimathea, will bury Jesus (John 19:38-42). Even though he was confused with so many questions, he remained curious about this Jesus character. How can we, even when we're confused by the ways of the world and the ways of the divine, stay close to God?

3/1/2026

2nd Sunday of Lent

Family Worship

St. John United Church of Christ

CCLI #1513875

A Selection of Contemporary Musical Pieces

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome and Brief Announcements

* **Let's Sing!** **In Christ Alone** (*see insert*)

* *Call to Worship*

One: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our Creator, our Protector, and our Wellspring of Life.

Many: Amen.

* *Gathering Prayer (Praying Together)*

O God, you are our leader and guide. You answer our questions through prayer and Scripture. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is God forever and ever. Amen

God's Word

First Reading: Psalm 121

I look up to the hills,

but where will my help really come from?

² My help will come from the Lord,

the Creator of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let you fall.

Your Protector will not fall asleep.

⁴ Israel's Protector does not get tired.

He never sleeps.

⁵ The Lord is your Protector.

The Lord stands by your side, shading and protecting you.

⁶ The sun cannot harm you during the day,

and the moon cannot harm you at night.

⁷ The Lord will protect you from every danger.

He will protect your soul.

⁸ The Lord will protect you as you come and go,

both now and forever!

A Moment of Silence

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17 (Easy to Read Version)

There was a man named Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees. He was an important Jewish leader. ² One night he came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No one can do these miraculous signs that you do unless they have God's help."

³ Jesus answered, "I assure you, everyone must be born again. Anyone who is not born again cannot be in God's kingdom."

⁴ Nicodemus said, "How can a man who is already old be born again? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born a second time?"

⁵ Jesus answered, “Believe me when I say that everyone must be born from water and the Spirit. Anyone who is not born from water and the Spirit cannot enter God’s kingdom. ⁶ The only life people get from their human parents is physical. But the new life that the Spirit gives a person is spiritual. ⁷ Don’t be surprised that I told you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants to. You hear it, but you don’t know where it is coming from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born from the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus asked, “How is all this possible?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “You are an important teacher of Israel, and you still don’t understand these things? ¹¹ The truth is, we talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you people don’t accept what we tell you. ¹² I have told you about things here on earth, but you do not believe me. So I’m sure you will not believe me if I tell you about heavenly things! ¹³ The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the one who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.

¹⁴ “Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. It is the same with the Son of Man. He must be lifted up too. ¹⁵ Then everyone who believes in him can have eternal life.”

¹⁶ Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world. He did not send him to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him.

Time with Youth – Questions and More Questions

Pastoral Reflection: What Does It Mean To Be Reborn?

*** Let’s Sing! Lord, I Need You**

1. Lord, I come, I con-
 - fess, bow-ing here, I find my rest. With-out
 You, I fall a - part. You’re the One that guides my
 heart. Lord, I need You, oh, I
 need You. Ev - ’ry hour I need You. My
 one de - fense, my right - eous - ness, oh God, how I need

You. 2. Where sin runs deep, Your grace is
 more. Where grace is found, is where You are. Where You
 are, Lord, I am free. Ho - li - ness is Christ in
 me. Lord, I need You, oh, I
 need You. Ev - 'ry hour I need You. My
 one de - fense, my right - eous-ness, oh God, how I need
 You. So teach my song to rise to You
 when temp - ta - tions come my way. When I can - not stand, I'll fall on
 You. Je - sus, You're my hope and stay. Lord, I
 need You, oh, I need You. Ev - 'ry hour I need You. My
 one de - fense, my right - eous-ness, oh God, how I need You. You're my
 one de - fense, my right - eous-ness, oh God, how I need You. My
 one de - fense, my right - eous-ness. Oh God, how I need You.

We Pray

Our Time for Generosity

Offering/Offertory

Leader: Let us stand as we are willing and able, to receive our offering,
 singing the Gloria Patrie

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

**All: O God, you are the maker of heaven and earth. Your love embraces all parts of this creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth.
Through these gifts of bread and wine, you draw us into the death and life of your Son.
For He is God forever and ever. Amen.**

The Meal (Holy Communion)

Blessing of the Communion Elements

Pastor: We pray the prayer, our Savior taught us...

Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Pastor: These are the gifts of God for all of us, the people of God. I invite you to take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you. Come, for all is now ready.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

All are welcome to our communion table today. You need not be a member here or anywhere. We commune today while seated in our pews. The ushers will first bring the bread to you. Take a piece and please be patient and wait a moment, until the ushers return to the Altar. Once the pastor says, "The Body of Christ, given for you. Take and Eat." Feel free to then eat. We will do the same for the wine / grape juice. The center ring is juice. If you are in doubt, please ask the usher. Again, once the pastor says, "The Blood of Christ shed for you. Take and Drink." Feel free to drink.

After Communion Prayer:

**God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
Draws us closer to you, and strengthens us for our life's journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. - Let it be so!**

Closing Prayer

Leader: As we prepare to leave this place of worship, let your Word and our prayers answer the questions in our hearts. Open our hearts to receive your blessing, your peace, and your love. Let us be lights that bring your wisdom into the world around us. And proudly we all say... **Amen.**

Let's Sing! Goodness of God



I LOVE YOU, LORD, FOR YOUR MERCY NEVER FAILS ME. ALL MY DAYS, I'VE BEEN HELD IN YOUR HANDS. FROM THE MOMENT THAT I WAKE UP, UNTIL I LAY MY HEAD, OH, I WILL SING OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD. 'CAUSE ALL MY LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL, AND ALL MY LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN SO, SO GOOD. WITH EVERY BREATH THAT I AM ABLE, OH, I WILL SING OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD. I LOVE YOUR VOICE. YOU HAVE LEAD ME THROUGH THE FIRE. IN DARKEST NIGHTS, YOU ARE CLOSE LIKE NO OTHER. I'VE KNOWN YOU AS A FATHER, I'VE KNOWN YOU AS A FRIEND, AND I HAVE LIVED IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD. 'CAUSE ALL MY LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL, AND ALL MY LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN SO, SO GOOD. WITH EVERY BREATH THAT I AM ABLE, OH, I WILL SING OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD. YOUR GOODNESS IS RUNNING AFTER, IT'S



RUN-NING AF - TER ME. _____

YOUR GOOD-NESS IS RUN-NING AF - TER, IT'S



RUN-NING AF - TER ME. _____

WITH MY LIFE _____ LAID DOWN, I SUR-REN - DER NOW. |



GIVE YOU EV - 'RY-THING, _____

OH, LORD.

YOUR GOOD-NESS IS RUN-NING AF - TER, IT'S



RUN-NING AF - TER ME. _____

RUN-NING AF - TER ME. _____



AND ALL MY LIFE_ YOU HAVE_ BEEN FAITH - FUL,



AND ALL MY LIFE_ YOU HAVE_ BEEN SO _____ SO _____ GOOD.



WITH EV-'RY BREATH_ THAT I _____ AM A - BLE, OH, I'M_ GON-NA SING_



_____ OF THE GOOD - NESS _____ OF GOD. _____

I'M_ GON - NA SING.



ALL MY LIFE_ YOU HAVE_ BEEN FAITH - FUL,

ALL MY LIFE_ YOU HAVE BEEN SO_



_____ SO GOOD.

EV-'RY BREATH_ THAT I _____ AM A - BLE,

I _____ WILL SING_



_____ OF THE GOOD - NESS _____ OF GOD. _____

I _____ WILL SING_



****Benediction***

Leader: Go in peace, believing the Good News!

Many: Our Worship is over, now let our service begin.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Today's Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister **Pastor David Kohls**

Musician

Reader

Usher **Jaxon**

Announcements

*Today's bulletin is sponsored by Donna Schneider,
In Loving Memory of Leland Schneider*

A Loving Welcome: A loving welcome to all who are here today. If you are a guest or visitor, please feel free to sign our guest book located in the back of the church and help yourself to our information. And please remember that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Evening Bible Study: Sunday, March 1 at 5:30 p.m. at Ebenezer.

Bible Study: *No Wednesday Bible Study until after Easter.*

Midweek Lenten Service: Wednesday, March 4, Lite Supper at 5:00 p.m. – Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. A sign-up sheet for helping with supplies for the supper is in the narthex. Thank you!

Chili Sale: St. John will be holding a Drive-Thru Chili Sale next Sunday, March 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet for chili makers is in the narthex.

Blanket Collection: The Women's Fellowship collected a total of \$545 for the Church World Service Blanket Collection. Thank you to everyone who donated! Your generosity will provide love and warmth at home and around the world.

Choir Director Needed: St. John is looking to fill the position of Choir Director. If you are interested, please get in touch with Pastor Dave or Jim Sommers.

Assistance Needed: We are looking for a Social Media Coordinator – and a Video helper. See Pastor.

The Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting will be held earlier than in past years, April 10 and April 11. We are allowed two "Lay Delegates" to participate in voting for Conference-Wide business. If you are interested, reach out to Pastor Dave for more information.

Sign-Up Sheets for helping with Holy Week services and other ministry opportunities are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Local News:

Rural Soup Cookoff: Members of area churches are invited to participate in the Rural Churches Mission Soup Cookoff on Sunday, March 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Laack's Tavern & Ballroom, W4302 CO RD JM, Johnsonville; \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under. Besides attending, you are welcome to prepare and enter soups, tortes, baked goods or help with raffle baskets and volunteering. More information is available on the narthex bulletin board.

Hospice Volunteers: ThedaCare at Home is seeking hospice volunteers to assist in caring for terminally ill patients and their families. Training is provided, and builds on a volunteer's experience and skills to learn about hospice philosophy, comfort care, and communication with patients & families. If interested, please contact Shana Farrell via phone at 920-422-7583 or email at shana.farrell@thedacare.org to learn more about this opportunity and upcoming trainings.

Prayers of Joys and Concerns*

David ~ Elizabeth ~ Jan ~ Maci ~ Michael ~ Pamela ~ Penny ~ Ruth ~ Susan ~ Wendy

**Contact the office to add or remove from this prayer list*

St. John Council Members

President: Jim Sommers (920) 894-2350
(2-year term starting 2025)

Secretary: Lynn Kind (920) 378-2173
(2nd 2-year term starting 2025)

Member-at-Large:
Jason Giordano (920) 946-6324
(2-year term starting 2026)

Vice-President: Garry Preder (920) 838-0714
(2-year term starting 2025)

Treasurer: Brian Kolb (920) 470-5748
(2-year term starting 2026)

**If anyone would like something put on the St. John website, please contact Phil Vergowe at pjvergowe@outlook.com*

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Pastor Dave | 920-252-3885 | rev_david_kohls@yahoo.com