Prayer in Preparation
Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards: Give us an un conquered heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow on us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements
( Please note the * indicates when you should stand. Due to COVID we will not be singing the hymns in the Sanctuary. Please sing the words only in your head, not vocally.)

Prelude
“Now the Green Blade Rises” Pastor Lisa & Matthew Hart
traditional French carol arranged by Michael Coe

*The Call to Worship
One: God speaks to the heart,
All: Offering compassion and hope.
One: God enlivens the mind,
All: Inviting curiosity and wonder.
One: God awakens all spirits,
All: Fostering sacred connection.
One: God nurtures our strength,
All: Creating unimagined possibilities.
One: God calls the whole world,
All: Inspiring extravagant love.

*Opening Prayer: (In unison)
Creating Spirit, we join with the chorus of all of creation to celebrate your wondrous deeds. Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony, so that we may contribute to the world You are already creating. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, who revealed what is possible through love. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ (Safe waves, head nods and thumbs up, only)
Peace be with you
And also with you

Hymn
“Morning Has Broken”
Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God’s recreation of the new day

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass

For the Child in Us All
Katie Sternhagen

Special Music
“Ode to Joy”
Jillian Sternhagen
Scripture Lesson
1 John 5:1-6
This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon
“How do you know?”
Pastor Lisa

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (In Unison)
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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Special Music
“They’ll Know We are Christians By Our Love”
Scholtes arr
Piano/Organ Duet - Evelyn Weber & Ruth Notch

We Share Our Blessings with Others
Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John’s UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)
Generous and loving God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our visions for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. Let our offerings bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.

Hymn
“Change My Heart O God”
Change my heart oh God You are the potter
Make it ever true I am the clay
Change my heart oh God Mold me and make me
May I be like You This is what I pray

Charge & Blessing

Postlude

Preaching: Reverend Lisa Hart
Director of Music Ministry: Ruth Notch
Director of Youth Ministries: Katie Sternhagen
Liturgist: Clayton Josef
Song leaders: Mike & Kathy Scherr
Usher Team: Dave Thomason
Lockup: Steve Hawkinson
Technology Team: Steve & Josh Hawkinson

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Our musical offerings today include a mother-son handbell duet (Pastor Lisa & Matthew Hart), budding violinist (Jillian Sternhagen, daughter of Katie Sternhagen) mother-daughter piano/organ duet (Evelyn Weber & Ruth Notch). We celebrate our mothers, and all women who have shared God's love with us during our life.