

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship July 31, 2022

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation

We are gathered at the feet of Jesus to learn what you expect of us, O God. We are here seeking a word of hope amid the bad news, the senseless suffering, and the evil deceit that surround our lives. We want to become mature in faith and responsible in action so you can work through us to bring changes that are needed in our world. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand. Our church is following the current CDC guidelines.)*

*Passing the Peace

Prelude

"Come Thou Fount"

Wyeth arr. Smith/Hustad

*Call to Worship

One: O give thanks to our GOD who is good, Whose steadfast love endures forever!

All: The people God loves have been gathered in from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

One: Some have wandered, finding no safety, hungry and thirsty.

All: In their trouble they cried out to God who delivered them from distress.

One: God satisfies the thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things.

All: O give thanks to our GOD who is good, Whose steadfast love endures forever!

*Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

Holy God, we gather this day to give thanks for your steadfast love and to experience afresh your desire to gather all people into communities of safety, justice, and peace. With Christ as our guide, we seek to grow more generous, compassionate, and welcoming. We seek to love all of our sisters and brothers with Christ's inclusive love that sees beyond difference and extends the hand of peace to strangers. Send your Spirit among us and inspire our imaginations and wills in the things that make for peace. Amen.

*Hymn

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#73

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple,
we would rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord..**

Prayer of Confession: (*In Unison*)

O Compassionate God, we desire to make our hearts right before you. We confess our selfishness, our greed, our deceit, our pride. Bring to light anything else that we may be hiding from you. Thank you for the unending promise of your grace and forgiveness. Give us hearts that desire to turn from sin and live like you

Assurance of Pardon

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in Us All

Pastor Lisa

Special Music

"Praise Medley"

Williams/Martin

Scriptures:

Luke 12:13-21

One: Here ends the reading. May God add blessings to the reading and hearing of the scriptures.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Message

* Hymn:	<i>"For the Fruit of All Creation"</i>	#714
<p>For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God; for the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God; for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.</p> <p>In the just reward of labor, God's will is done; in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done; in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.</p>	<p>For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God; for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God; for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.</p>	

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.**

Invitation to give generously

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 by mail. We are grateful for your support.

***Doxology (In Unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)**

God of abundance, thank you for the privilege we have of giving. Take our gifts of time, talents and money and speed them to our brothers and sisters who hunger for your presence of hope and love. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn:**

"The Voice of God is Calling"

#666 verses 1, 3, 4

**The voice of God is calling
to women and to men;
the voice once heard in Zion,
resounds on earth again:
whom shall I send to succor
my people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen
the bonds of shame and greed?**

**We heed, O God, your summons,
and answer: Here are we!
Send us upon your errand,
let us your servants be.
Our strength is dust and ashes,
our years a passing hour,
But you can use our weakness
to magnify your power.**

**From ease and plenty save us;
from pride of place absolve;
purge us of low desire;
lift us to high resolve;
take us, and make us holy;
teach us your will and way.
Speak, and behold! we answer;
command, and we obey!**

Benediction

Postlude

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **David Leech**
Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Piano/Organ duet: **Ellen Brandon & Ruth Notch**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**
Chancel Choir: **Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner,
Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin, Susie Pisoni,
Helen Stortz & Evelyn Weber**

Announcements

We pray for **Shirley Carmack, Betty Gschwind, Tim Messina, A.J. Switzer and Paul VanDriest**
Please let us know your prayer concerns.

08/07/22 Service

Liturgist: **Danielle Dolan**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Ken Ruff**

08/14/22 Service

Liturgist: **Amanda Jones**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Ken Ruff**

Volunteers needed to make sandwiches for Loaves & Fishes the last Sunday of every month.

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **xx** this week

Circle of Concern Back to School Supplies

This year is easier. Circle is only collecting gift cards or money for back to school. Please place your \$25.00 gift cards for Walmart and/or Target as well as any monetary donations in the offering plate clearly marked "School Supply Drive".

Our Mission Ministry Team has received from the UCC Global Missions Board the information on our St. John's **sponsored child, Kayla**, who is a recently placed resident of the Pringle Home for Girls in Jamaica. Please **see the newsletter** for more information about how you can get involved.

Interested in going to the **MUNY** to see **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**? The show is Aug 12-18 and we are able to get group rates starting at 15 people. The discounted ticket prices range from \$13.50-\$54.00. If you are interested, please email Lynn Potts. We'll need to choose a date and seat location to book the tickets. See the newsletter for more information.

A Look Ahead

7/31/22

8/7/22

11:00 AM

8/13/22

9:00 AM

8/21/22

8/23/22

6:30 PM

8/28/22

Mail Mid-Year Statements

"What is God Calling Us to Be?" with lunch

Highway Cleanup (contact Jeanne Clauson)

No Sunday School

Bunko Women's Fellowship

No Sunday School

Please check your News Notes specific information around upcoming activities.

A Note From Your Executive Council:

We believe there may be some question as to the role of executive council and we wanted to try and clarify for everyone the function of executive council.

The members of executive council consist of the council president (Helen Stortz), vice-president (Jan Boehm), secretary (Phil Difani), treasurer (Monica Hart) and we include the pastor.

Executive council meets typically the week before the full council meeting. We discuss topics, new or old, that may need to be included on the agenda for the council meeting. Any voting or decision making is then made by the entire council. Any member of council also has the opportunity to bring up any topics they wish to discuss.

There has been a rare occasion where a decision needs to be made in a timely manner and before our next council meeting, such as issues related to Covid and the federal payroll protection program and executive council will decide the matter.

We hope this helps to answer any questions you may have. You are always welcome to talk to any of us!

St. John's United Church of Christ
15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017
(636) 532-0540
stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com
www.stjohnsucchesterfield.org

Worship Services

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. –Worship and Sunday School
In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual