

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Thought for Preparation

"Our Shepherd intends that we experience his love every day, by living a life that is FREEDOM FROM FEAR There is not single day in your future when God will not be seeking you out to give you goodness, to give you love, even in those times when you walk through the darkest valley. David does not say there won't be pain; he does not say that there won't be trouble and distress but he DOES say that there will always be goodness, there will always be love, there will always be kindness, hot on your heels." (David Knott).

Welcome and Announcements

(Please note the * indicates when you should stand.)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you.

Prelude

"Hallelujah! What a Savior!"

Arr. Campbell/Coleman

*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 96)

One: The doors are open. The Good Shepherd calls, "Come in to find a place of comfort and safety."

Many: **We turn away from our weariness and fear. We leave behind our anxiety and care.**

One: There is bread to feed our every need. There is still waters to refresh our souls.

Many: **The Shepherd cares for us. We listen to the voice of God.**

All: Let us praise God for this time of being together. Praise the Good Shepherd for refreshment and renewal.

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

God of signs and wonders, open our eyes to the marvelous evidence of your care for us. Open our ears to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd calling us each by name. Link us together by your spirit as one community of caring, in which the needs of each are the concern of all. Shower your goodness and mercy on all you are gathered here that we may leave to serve you. Amen.

*Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#2, vs 1,3,4

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine,
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus stars of morning, take your part,
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

O God, it is so easy to stray from the best that we know. Before we realize it, we are lost in our fears, dominated by life's shadows, preoccupied with our own suffering. We complain a lot, even though our cups overflow with your goodness and mercy. We are reluctant to see your life giving still waters which are all around us each day. Save us, O Shepherd, from our wandering ways, we want to be true disciples. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Response

"Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, Whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end, Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, Amen.

Special Music

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Arr. Campbell/Coleman

For the Child in Us

Pastor Donna

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Psalm 23

John 10:1-10

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

*Hymn

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

vs 1 & 3

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us we are yours;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have brought us, we are yours.

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, loved us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

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 in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

*Hymn	"Take My Gifts"	#381 vs 3
Take whatever I can offer-- gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.		

Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)

We give, O Shepherd, as sheep of your fold. We place our gifts on the altar, knowing that you will bless and use them, to feed and clothe, to protect and inspire, to love and have compassion upon all those it touches. Use us, your disciples, to care in the ways you care for us, without regard to reward or favor. Amen

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"	# 560 vs 1,2,3
What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.		
O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.		
What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.		

Benediction

Postlude

"Sacred Harp Melody"

arr. Adams

Preaching: **Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo, RN**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Erin Armstrong**
Song Leaders: **Mike & Kathy Scherr**
Violinist: **Chris Sasse**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**

Please stay in the sanctuary after services to hear
Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo, RN the Executive Director of the Deaconess Nurse Ministry
speak about the parish nurse program

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Announcements

We pray for **Ava Bauman, Shirley Carmack, June Evers, Betty Gschwind, Ellen Meier, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer, Donna Switzer and Paul Van Dries.**
Please let us know your prayer concerns.

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

05/07/23 Service
Liturgist: **Rev. Dr. Rich Brandon**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Nora Amato**

05/14/23 Service
Liturgist: **Lynn Potts**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Nora Amato**

A Look Ahead

4/30	11 AM	Speaker Pastor Donna Smith Pupillo, Parish Nurse Program
5/7		Communion Sunday
5/8	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
5/9	11 AM	Remembering Your Story class
5/11	2 PM	ImPact Blood Drive Ivy Chapel
5/11 & 12	11 AM	ECC Mothers parties
5/15	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
5/16	10 AM	Graduation Info due to the office.
5/16 & 17		ECC last classes
5/21	10 AM	Graduate Celebration in Service
5/21	11 AM	Senior Ministry Prayer Chain Class
5/22	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
5/23	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
5/28	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
5/28		Pentecost Sunday Wear Red
5/28	10:00 AM	Strengthen the Church Offering
5/28		No Sunday School
5/29		Memorial Day Office Closed
5/31		No Sunday School

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

Graduation Celebration! Help us celebrate all of the graduations & accomplishments of our students. If someone in your family graduated this year from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, or any accomplishment you want to brag about—send us **a paragraph** with **where** they are **graduating from**, what their **post-graduation plans** are, and a short list of accomplishments they achieved during the education (if you like). Send the information to the church office at stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com by **May 16th**.

St. John's will be a Chesterfield Regional Chamber Concert Sponsor again this summer! The Chamber will promote the church as a sponsor in exchange for volunteers assisting with traffic & parking management. **Six volunteers are needed on each Tuesday from 5:00-7:00 pm June 6, 13, 20 and July 11.** Gates open at 5:30, Bingo at 6:00 and Band starts at 7:00 and are held at Faust Park. Attendees may bring food and drinks or purchase from vendors at the concert. Volunteer and stay for the free concert! The concert series is a fund raiser for the Chamber as it does not receive tax support. Great opportunity for community exposure and to help the Chamber!
Please contact Lynn Potts to let her know which Tuesdays you are available to help. Friends & family are welcome to help too! lpotts14@gmail.com or 314-494-4940

Join us on Sundays

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Worship

In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

St. John's United Church of Christ

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