

# St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship      March 15, 2026  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

## Ringling of the Chimes

### Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the \* indicates when you should stand*

*Members and Visitors please make note of your attendance by signing in on the pew pads.)*

### \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

**And also, with you**

Prelude	<i>"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"</i>	arr. Campbell
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### \*The Call to Worship

Come, people of God, to know again who you are; return to the One who gives you life.

**We come as children of God, longing for a closer walk with our Creator.**

Come, all who see your own weakness and imperfections, for God is not impressed by outward appearances.

**We respond to God's welcoming love and rejoice that there is a place for us here.**

Come, all who are blind but long to see, all who stumble in the dark but yearn for light.

**We are glad for this time of healing and refreshment, this hour of celebration and enlightenment.**

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light."

**We are alert to the surprises God has in store for us, eager to see the new possibilities Christ offers. Amen.**

* Hymn	<i>"Morning Has Broken"</i>	#53
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**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 word**

**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**

**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**

### \*Invitation to Confession

**\* Prayer of Confession (In Unison)**

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.

We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.

**\*Words of Grace**

Friends: hear this good news and see the grace of God:

You are forgiven. You are free to go and live in the light of love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Time for the Child in us All**

**Pastor Katie Jo**

*"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"*  
**Child of God your loving parent,  
Learn to listen for God's call  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
Trust and love God more than all.**

**Special Music**

*"Amazing Love"*

**Kendrick**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**Scriptures: Ephesians 5:8-14 & John 9:1-41**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

8 for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."world."

**John 9**

**A Man Born Blind Receives Sight**

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my

eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

<sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

### **The Pharisees Investigate the Healing**

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

### **Spiritual Blindness**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**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.**

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**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 or mail. We are grateful for your support.)*

**Offertory**

*“I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light”*

**Thomerson**

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Into a world desperate for signs of hope,  
**let these gifts arrive as beacons.**  
Into communities working for signs of freedom,  
**let these gifts unlock shackles.**  
Into hearts searching for signs of compassion,  
**let these gifts offer tenderness.**  
Into each breath yearning for signs of new life,  
**let these gifts come as possibility. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* Hymn

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

**Benediction**

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**  
Preaching: **Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo, RN**  
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**  
Liturgist: **Susie Pisoni**  
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**  
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**

*Announcements*

**Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Andy Kissel,  
Danny Mueller, Anita Paz and Melanie Spangler.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns. Private prayer concerns speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

*... Looking Ahead*

Sun	03/15/26	11:00 AM	<i>Lily Orders Due</i>
Mon	03/16/26	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	03/17/26		Bimonthly Newsletter ( <a href="#">subscribe</a> )
Tue	03/24/26	10:00 AM	Book Club
			"The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd
Sun	03/22/26		Butter Braid Orders Due
Tue	03/24/26	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Wed	03/25/26	6:00 PM	Lenten Study
Thu	03/26/26	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship
Sun	03/29/26	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	03/29/26	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday
Sun	03/29/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Thu	04/02/26	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday
Fri	04/03/26	6:00 PM	Good Friday
Sun	04/05/26	10:00 AM	Easter Sunday



Order Easter Lillies

**HOLY WEEK**

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

<https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

**Join us on Sundays**  
9:00 a.m. - Fellowship with coffee and donuts  
10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School**  
10:00 a.m. - **Worship**  
In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

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<p><b>03/22/26 Service</b>          Liturgist: <b>Warren Stemme</b>          Usher Team: <b>Ken Ruff</b>          Technology: <b>Steve Hawkinson</b>          Fellowship/Lockup: <b>Carol Tindira</b>          Special Music: <b>Choir</b></p>	<p><b>03/29/26 Service</b>          Liturgist: <b>Carol Tindira</b>          Usher Team: <b>Jim Pisoni</b>          Technology: <b>Steve Hawkinson</b>          Fellowship/Lockup: <b>Carol Tindira</b>          Special Music: <b>Violin &amp; Choir</b></p>	<p><b>04/05/26 Service</b>          Liturgist: <b>Jane Lindberg</b>          Usher Team: <b>Larry Sontag</b>          Technology: <b>Steve Hawkinson</b>          Fellowship/Lockup: <b>Barb Ackerman</b>          Special Music: <b>Handbells</b></p>
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We are livestreaming Sunday morning services. You can join us live or watch the YouTube video later.

<p><b>Facebook:</b> livestream:  </p>	<p><b>YouTube:</b> video here:  </p>	<p><b>Website:</b> info here:  </p>	<p><b>Offering</b>  </p>
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Sign up for the following fun activities: Using your phone and the QR code

 <b>ECC Show Me Dough Fundraiser</b>	 <b>Thu, 3/26 5:30 pm Table Fellowship</b>	 <b>Tue, 3/24 6:30 PM Women's Game Night</b>	 <b>Weds 6 PM Lenten Study</b>
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March 2026

15 Offering 	16  6 pm Council Mtg	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18  6 pm Lenten Study	19	20	21
22	23	24  	25  6 pm Lenten Study	26 	27	28