

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Holy God, there is within us a deep desire to know you -- to rest in your presence, to trust in your mercy, to feel your loving embrace envelop us. And so it seems that we are always traveling, always seeking you. All the while, you wait patiently and quietly for us to return home. You have been with us all along, calling us, wooing us, guiding us. The voice we drowned out with the noise of our lives was you, but you have never stopped speaking. It is in worship, gracious God, that we are reminded to slow down, to be still and silent, and to listen. Thank you for this sacred time. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Peace be with you

And also with you

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

"Ring Joy"

Mitchell

***The Call to Worship**

One: We come to worship

All: Giving thanks with whole hearts

One: In the company of this congregation.

All: We worship the One who is gracious and merciful.

One: Holy and awesome is God's name!

All: Let us worship God together!

***Opening Prayer**

Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

The God of Abraham praise.

All praised be the Name,
who was and is and is to be,
is still the same;

the one eternal God,
ere all that now appears;
the First, the Last, beyond all thought
through timeless years!

God's Spirit flowing free,
high surging where it will--
in prophet's word it spoke of old--
is speaking still.

Established is God's law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart,
on sea, or land.

God has eternal life
implanted in the soul.

God's love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.

Praise to the living God!
All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
is still the same!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: God invites us to come to worship with our whole hearts, to inventory our deeds and our works, mindful of our covenant with God. God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

All: Gracious and Merciful God, maker of covenant, faithful and just, we examine our lives in light of your righteousness which endures forever. You give us commandments, raise up prophets among us from among our own people. You speak to us, and ask us to become accountable. Yet often we ignore your ways and disdain your works. We close ourselves to your prophets and to the suffering in our world. Forgive us and renew us, that we may walk in faithfulness to you today, tomorrow, and all days. Amen.

Words of Grace

One: God's righteousness endures forever. The promises of God's covenant of grace assure us that this day and all days we can walk in renewed faithfulness, as we witness good works, and follow God's call.

All: Thanks be to God, whose righteousness endures forever!

Special Music

"God of the Sparrow God of the Whale"

Schalk arr. Webster

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Scriptures: Mark 1:21-28

One: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

*** Hymn**

"Be Still, My Soul"

#566 verses 1 and 2

Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know
the voice that calmed them in this world below.

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.)

***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** (*In Unison*)

We worship with our whole hearts, and give with our whole hearts, remembering your covenant with us, O God. As we share these gifts, may they be for the work of faithful justice and gracious mercy through your church and in your world. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"My Life Flows On"

#619 vs 1, 2, & 4

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I hear the clear, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

[Refrain:]

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

"Siyahamba - I'm Gonna Sing"

Waldrop

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Warren Stemme**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**
Song leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Percussionist: **Todd Armstrong**

Handbells: **Erin Armstrong, Norma Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Pastor Lisa Hart, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni**

Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **Hungary** this week

We pray for
**Barb Ackerman, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart,
Sue Kinnaman, Barbara Tretter and Gloria Vaclavik**
Please let us know your prayer concerns

2/4/24 Service
Liturgist: **Amanda Jones**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**

2/11/24 Service
Liturgist: **Lynn Potts**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**

Council Meeting Bullet Points

- **Pastor Lisa's farewell celebration will be February 4th after church, and we will also be celebrating Reverend Shari Maddox's 40-year anniversary as a minister.**
- **February 18th will be the next Ted Gottlieb presentation, discussion will be on "Senior Living Community"**
- **Bingo will be March 9; donations will be collected for Lydia's House.**

... Looking Ahead January ❄️

1/28 9:15 AM Loaves & Fishes
1/28 11:00 AM Annual Meeting

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

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

Preschool & Kids Day Out registration for the 2024/2025 school year began January 22.

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www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

... Looking Ahead February ♥

2/4	10:00 AM	Pastor Lisa's Last Service
2/4	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
2/4	10:00 AM	Rev Shari 40th Ordination Anniversary
2/4	11:00 AM	Celebration Lunch in Fellowship Hall
2/4	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
2/5	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
2/8	9:25 AM	Volunteer at Lydia's House
2/9	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
2/11	11:00 AM	Cemetery Board Meeting
2/12	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
2/14	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
2/18	10:00 AM	1 st Sunday of Lent
2/18	11:00 AM	Ted Gottlieb "Senior Living Community"
2/19	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
2/19		Presidents' Day (<i>office/ecc closed</i>)
2/20	12:00 PM	ECC early dismissal
2/23	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter

... Looking Ahead March



3/3	10:00 AM	3rd Sunday of Lent
3/3		Communion Sunday
3/3		Global Ministries Pray for Egypt
3/3	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
3/4	9:00 AM	Pastor Katie Jo's first day in the office
3/6 - 7/24		ECC Parent Conferences
3/8	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
3/9	6:30 PM	Bingo, doors open at 6:30
3/10	10:00 AM	Pastor Katie Jo's first Service
3/10	10:00 AM	4th Sunday of Lent
3/10		Global Ministries Pray for Japan
3/11	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
3/17	10:00 AM	5th Sunday of Lent
3/17		Global Ministries Pray for Myanmar
3/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
3/18 to 22		ECC Spring Break
3/22		Biweekly Newsletter
3/24	10:00 AM	6th Sunday of Lent
3/24		Global Ministries Pray for Cuba
3/26	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
3/28	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at TBD
3/28		Maundy Thursday
3/29		ECC No School
3/29		Good Friday
3/30		Holy Saturday
3/31	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
3/31	10:00 AM	Easter
3/31		Global Ministries Pray for Greece
3/31	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting



RSVP for Bingo Here