

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringing of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

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

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"Largo"

Handel

*The Call to Worship

Come, children of God, to sing a new song; clap your hands and shout for joy.

Jesus is our good news, our joy, and our salvation.

In steadfast love and faithfulness God has done marvelous things.

God raised Jesus from the dead; Christ is alive and at work among us.

Gather to know the immeasurable greatness of God, to exalt in the One who grants revelation.

We come together blessing God for all we have seen and heard.

* Hymn

"Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"

#278

Here, O Lord, your servants gather,
hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross,
joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God,
we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps
for you are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak,
scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God,
one in love's demands.
E'en in darkness hope appears,
calling age and youth;
Jesus, Teacher, swell with us,
for you are the Truth.

Nature's secrets open wide,
changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls
find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed,
torn by endless strife,
Jesus, Healer, bring your balm,
for you are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed,
filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray.
Send us from above
truth and courage, faith and power
needed in our strife:
Jesus, Master, be our Way,
be our Truth our Life.

*Gathering Prayer (*In Unison*)

O God, we enter into worship with great joy, for you grant us acceptance and lift us up with visions of what is yet to be. Hear our psalms of praise and songs of faith as we wait in anticipation for the power of your Spirit among us and within. Bless our worship and time together. Amen.

Special Music

"Oh, How I Love Jesus"

arr. Raney

In Celebration of Those who Mother

Mothering God, we thank you for all the mothers in our lives.

**We thank you for the love they have shown and the care they have given.
For the many times they gave us hugs and held us close.**

Mother Bear God, we thank you for the protectiveness of mothers.

For those who fiercely defend and advocate for the lives of their loved ones, for the safety of their children, and all children.

Mother Eagle God, we thank you for the patience and kindness of mothers.

For the women who teach us, coach us, mentor us and wait for us.

Laboring God, we thank you for the open and loving heart of mothering women, even when mothering is difficult and even painful,

For those whose hearts are grieving loss, for those who long to be mothers, for those who have lost their mothers, for those who have lost their children.

Loving and nurturing God, we thank you for all the people, regardless of title, who have taken on the privilege, the responsibilities, and the care we call "mother."

For neighbors and older siblings, for aunts and uncles, for grandparents, adoptive parents and foster parents, for the teachers and tutors who go beyond to meet our needs...

Today, Mother God, we celebrate the way so many people help us connect to Your mothering spirit by revealing your love and care to us, and we give you thanks for all of those who mother.

Thank You, God, for mothers.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: John 17:6-19 Acts 1:15-17,21-26

John 17:6-19

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Acts 1:15-17 21-26

15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, 16 “Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, 17 for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” 21 “So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” 23 So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	<i>“Standing in the Need of Prayer”</i>	#579
[Refrain:] It’s me (it’s me), it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. It’s me (it’s me), it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain] Not the preacher, not the teacher, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not the preacher, not the teacher, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain] Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain] Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]		

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

Offertory

"His Eye is On the Sparrow"

Martin/Gabriel arr. Keveren

***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)

Send us and our offerings where they are needed in your world, O God. May we witness to Christ's resurrection, be apostles of your love, and share eternal life with one another. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

#585

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!**

**What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.**

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Rev. Katie Jo**

Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**

Usher Team: **John Bartelt**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**

Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

Songleaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Piano Duet - **Karen Rocchio & Ruth**

Piano/Organ Duet - **Evelyn Weber & Ruth Notch**

Announcements

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

We pray for

**Donna Dollgner, Rev. Dwyane Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina,
Kathy Scherr and Gloria Vaclavik** Please let us know your prayer concerns

05/19/24 Service

Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Special Music: **Flute**

05/26/24 Service

Liturgist: **Daniel Dolan**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

06/02/24 Service

Liturgist: **Rev Rich Brandon**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Special Music: **Vocalist Meher Arora**

Remember to send us your graduate information for next week's service.

Sarah Louise Ayers

St. Louis University School of Law
May 18, 2024,



Erin Armstrong

University of Missouri College of Optometry
May 10th, 2024



... Looking Ahead

5/12	9:20 & 11 AM	Stained Glass Information Meetings
5/12		Global Ministries Pray for Palestine
5/15		ECC Last Day
5/17	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe)
5/19		Pentecost – All are invited to wear Red.
5/19	9:20 & 11 AM	Stained Glass Information Meetings
5/19	10:00 AM	Celebrate the Graduates
5/19	10:00 AM	Strengthen the Church Offering
5/19		Global Ministries Pray for Venezuela
5/20	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
5/23	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship at Spiros (note the time change)
5/26	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
5/26	9:20 AM	Stained Glass Information Meetings
5/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
5/26		Global Ministries Pray for Japan
5/27		Memorial Day Office Closed
5/28	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
5/31	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe)
6/2	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday

6/2	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
6/2		Global Ministries Pray for India
6/4	9:00 AM	ECC Summer Camp Begins
6/9	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee
6/9		Global Ministries Pray for Ghana
6/12	9:30 AM	Wagon Tour at Shaw Nature Reserve
6/14	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe at stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com)
6/16		Global Ministries Pray for Germany
6/16	4:30 PM	Ronald McDonald House Volunteering
6/17	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
6/19		Juneteenth

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

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



Wagon Tour at Shaw Nature Reserve

Shaw Nature Reserve guided one hour wagon tour.

Date: **June 12th**

Meet at Church: 9:30 am

Tour Time: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Picnic Lunch after the tour, **bring your own** lunch or snack. Questions? Contact Helen Stortz

[RSVP](#) (limited to the first 20 RSVPs)



Shaw Wagon Tour



Want to put your cooking and serving skills to use for a **good cause**? Then **help us prepare** and serve a **meal** to **Ronald McDonald House** families!

The Date is: **Sunday, June 16**

Time: **4:30 to 7:30 pm**

Place: 300 Ronald McDonald House Lane, 63141

Questions? Contact Monica Hart or Susie Pisoni

RSVP at <https://forms.gle/vamv7Yi1vUaH6Thb8>



Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House

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

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