

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship July 30, 2023

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

God invited Solomon to ask for any gift. Solomon pondered, and asked for the gift that will enable him to serve the people of God best: an understanding heart, to know good from evil, and to lead the people in wisdom. There were other reasonable gifts that Solomon could have chosen; But he put the needs of the people at the center of his desire. As you prepare for worship, take some time to consider your life, the many competing needs that confront you. Ask God for the discernment and wisdom that Solomon longed for, that your choices may reflect generosity and the common good.

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

"Processional"

Helman

*Call to Worship

One: God calls into our midst those who are beloved in all their diversity:

All: **We welcome them.**

One: God calls into our midst all those who are vulnerable, in need of teaching, healing, shelter.

All: **We welcome them.**

One: God calls into our midst all those with a word of challenge that proclaims God's kingdom for all.

All: **We welcome them.**

One: Let us worship God, who calls us to be "prophets of welcome":

All: **Alleluia!**

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Meet us here, holy God, to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant your Word among us that it may spring up in nurturing inviting ways for the sake of all your creatures. May we find in these moments of worship the assurance we need to live triumphantly, in all the days of our lives. Amen.

*Hymn

"Gather Us In"

#284 vs 1, 2, 4

Here in this place the new light is streaming
Shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in; our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
We are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,
 Not in some heaven light years away,
 Here in this place the new light is shining;
 Now is God present, and now is the day.
 Gather us in and hold us forever;
 Gather us in and make us your own;
 Gather us in, all peoples together,
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Special Music

"Do Lord"

Stephenson

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Scripture: Genesis 29:15-28

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

*Hymn	<i>"Here I Am, Lord"</i>	#452
I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save I, who made the stars of night I will make their darkness bright Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? [Chorus] Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night I will go, Lord, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart	I, the Lord of snow and rain I have borne my people's pain I have wept for love of them They turn away I will break their hearts of stone Give them hearts for love alone I will speak my words to them Whom shall I send? [Chorus] I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? [Chorus]	

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 Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

Covenanting God, who sees more than we see, help us to look into the eyes of those we serve so that we may see how lovely they are. Help us to know your grace and beauty revealed in the eyes that are seen through these gifts. In Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"	#589
	Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart. In-a my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.	
	Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart. In-a my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.	
	Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart. In-a my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.	

Benediction

Postlude

Preaching:	Pastor Lisa Hart
Director of Music Ministry:	Ruth Notch
Liturgist:	Carolyn Golfin
Song Leaders:	Kathy & Mike Scherr
Usher Team:	Larry Sontag
Technology Team:	Steve Hawkinson
Fellowship & Lockup:	Rosemarie Spray
Handbells:	Erin Armstrong, Norma Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Lisa Hart, Matthew Hart, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Ruth Notch

We ask you to keep the families of the following in your prayers.
We ask that God's presence will provide strength in this time of grief.
Betty Gschwind 7.2.23 (funeral service was 7.22.23)
Mel Storch, 7.18.23 (no funeral service)
Shirley Carmack 7.20.23 (funeral service to be announced)
Betty Jo Keiffer 7.22.23 (funeral service was 7.28)

Announcements

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

We pray for **June Evers, Bill Lubbin, Ellen Meier, Marilyn Norton, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns

08/06/23 Service

Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Ken Ruff**

08/13/23 Service

Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Ken Ruff**

If you would like to be a liturgist please contact **Carolyn Golfin** or **Pastor Lisa**

A Look Ahead

8/6		Communion Sunday
8/6	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry meeting <i>(in library)</i>
8/6		Global Ministries pray for Bangladesh
8/7	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting <i>(zoom)</i>
8/9	9:45 AM	Art Museum Tour & Lunch
8/13		Last Summer Sunday Funday
8/13	11 AM	Men's Group Brainstorming Session <i>(in library)</i>
8/13		Global Ministries pray for Zimbabwe
8/14	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
8/20		No Sunday School
8/20		Global Ministries pray for Syria
8/20		No Sunday School
8/21	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
8/22	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
8/27	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
8/27	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting <i>(in library)</i>
8/27		Global Ministries pray for Puerto Rico
8/27		No Sunday School
8/28	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
9/3		Communion Sunday
9/3	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry meeting <i>(in library)</i>

more at <https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship> Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

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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