

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, your attention to all your children amazes and surprises us. Help us to hear your call to us, to accept your direction, and to follow your commands that the world may become more faithfully your realm. May it be a place that acknowledges your rule; may it be a community in which all are valued and welcomed, whatever their contribution. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze

*Call to Worship

One: Call on God with praise and thanksgiving. Tell of God's wonderful works.

All: Today we open ourselves to God's presence. Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.

One: When we eat, we are reminded of God's provision. When we drink pure water, we give thanks.

All: Surely God has blessed us with food and drink. Daily we are strengthened for tasks we face.

One: We are guided by God's laws and statutes. We benefit from God's generosity.

All: Let all the people worship with joy! Let all whom God has chosen sing together!

*Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#2 verses 1, 2, 3

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.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

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

*** Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)**

Holy God, we rejoice in your wonderful works, in miracles you have caused among us, and in the wealth you have entrusted to our stewardship. You have called us to important work in your vineyard. Wherever we go, we represent your church and interpret your ways to those who observe our words and deeds. Enfold us in your presence and give us strength and courage to pass on the light you have sent to illuminate our journey through life. We are eager to feel your presence in your worship and to be fed by your Word today. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the spirit. We admit our resentment when some people we deem unworthy benefit from your generosity. We confess our lack of attention to your laws, your living Word, your prompting Spirit. You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve. We choose to belong to you. Accept and change us, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Praise 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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Special Music

Amazing Grace

Scripture: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Exodus 16: 2-3; Matthew 20:1-16

One: Here ends the reading. May God add blessings to the reading and hearing of the scriptures.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

***Hymns**

"Amazing Grace"

#546 4 verses

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

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.

*Hymn	"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"	#306
Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. 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 and Thanksgiving (*In Unison*)

God, grant that our gifts may be symbols of our love and of ourselves now offered more fully to you. Use our gifts and us, we pray, to the end that your realm may come and your will be done on earth, even as it is done in heaven. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Standing on the Promises"	#552 verses 1, 2, 3
Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God. [Refrain:] Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.	Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. [Refrain] Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]	

Benediction

Postlude

The Gift of Love

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
 Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Lynn Potts**
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Phil Difani**
 Harpist: **Amy Camie**
 Songleaders: **Mike & Kathy Scherr**

Announcements

10/01/23 Service Liturgist: Helen Stortz Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship & Lockup: Steve Hawkinson Special Music:	10/08/23 Service Liturgist: Mark Strothmann Usher Team: Larry Sontag Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship & Lockup: Steve Hawkinson Special Music:
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Global Ministries requests that we pray with **xx** this week



In 2023, the Neighbors in Need **"BEHOLD!"** theme continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet! **Offering collected October 1**

A Look Ahead

9/24	11:00 AM	Ted Gottlieb "Aging in Place Strategy"
9/25	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
9/26	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
9/28	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at Mimi's (please RSVP)
<i>featured</i>		Sharefest Drive MO Youth Personal Care
10/1	10:00 AM	World Communion Sunday
10/1	10:00 AM	Neighbors in Need Offering
10/1	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (in library)
10/2	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (zoom)
10/6	8:00 AM	Bird Watching event (all are welcome).
10/6	10:00 AM	Sharefest final day to bring items in.
10/7	9:00 AM	Sharefest Drop Off
10/9	8:00 AM	Columbus Day (office closed)
10/9	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
10/12 & 13	9:00 AM	ECC Picture Day
10/15	1:00 PM	Pet Blessing (pavillion)
10/16	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
10/22	5:00 PM	Stemme Farm Picnic & Hayride
10/23	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
10/24	6:00 PM	Interfaith Partnership Annual Dinner
10/24	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
10/28	8:00 AM	Pumpkin Run Chesterfield (please volunteer)
10/29	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes

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

We pray for **June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Bill Lubbin, Jeannie Rucker, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns

We will again be collecting for the Missouri Sharefest on October 6. We will suggest you select from one or more of the following 5 packs to assemble and share: this week we are featuring

MO Youth Personal Care
MO Personal Hygiene
MO Paper Product
MO Student Dental
MO Food Box

We will share information on different packs weekly or see the display in the Narthex.

Missouri Student Dental Pack
3,290 requested versus 2,034 shared in 2022
Estimated Pack Value **\$13**

Instruction: Place items in a 1 gallon zipper storage bag. Place completed packs in boxes labeled with "Missouri Student Dental Packs" and the quantity on the exterior.

- ☐ 2 adult sized soft toothbrushes (in original package)
- ☐ 4 child-sized soft toothbrushes (in original package)
- ☐ 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more)
- ☐ 1 dental floss OR 1 package of floss picks (any size)



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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