

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship November 5, 2023

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of All Saints Day

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

O everlasting God, for whose name all the saints before us have endured many things, we thank you for setting them before us, that we might have comfort in their great cloud of testimony to your Way and your Truth. Truly Lord, you have prepared our way and shown it to us, and you guide our steps by their example. Those we have heard of and those we have known have been examples for us in all virtue and godly living, in faith, perseverance and boldness. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

“Peace be with you!”

Prelude

“Come, Share the Lord”

Leech

We gather here, in Jesus name

**His love is burning in our hearts like living flame
For through the loving son, God fashions us as one
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
Come share the Lord**

*Call to Worship

One: Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

All: May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.

One: May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

All: In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.

One: May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

All: And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.

* Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Fill us with gratitude for the saints who gather for worship and continue to give their gifts for the good of the church. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
 who thee by faith before the world confessed,
 thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 Alleluia, alleluia!**

**O blest communion, company divine!
 We live and struggle, they in glory shine;
 yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 Alleluia, alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bounds,
 from ocean's farthest coast,
 through gates of pearl streams in the
 countless host,
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
 Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*In Unison*)

Loving God, grant me grace to release everything too much or too little into your transforming fire of refinement. Sear in me the strength of your saints – generous and gentle, focused and fierce – just enough to answer every devilish temptation distracting or denying Your Holy hope for my re-formation. Form me anew from the inside out, centering others ahead of every selfishness that dares me to choose anything less than You. Release me from the burdens and brokenness of my own making, that I may be readied to meet You in every ordinary saint whose path crosses mine in the gift of this day. Amen.

Words of Grace

One: Hear the good news! Jesus tells us that the Holy One is a God of grand reversals. Weeping turns to rejoicing, hunger is answered with fullness, honesty of heart is answered with grace upon grace. Every energy that diminishes is interrupted with a newness of life made possible by the One who is always searching us out with forgiving love. In Jesus, God revealed that grace and forgiveness have already arrived, and it includes you and me. It is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. The saints knew it and now you do, too.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Special Music

"We are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light"

arr. Hopson

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Brock William Wickenhauser

Parents: Kathryn Ayers Wickenhauser and Keith Wickenhauser

Sister: Elise Wickenhauser

Godmothers: Elizabeth Van Pelt and Sarah Ayers

Godmother (there in spirit from Berlin): Amelia Ayers

Invitation

The Covenant

Church, do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

Congregational Response

All: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized (*In Unison*)

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for Brock and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. We ask you to give Brock strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life. Unite us all in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

#325 in NCH

Child of blessing, child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit's sign:
With this water God has sealed you
Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression,
Love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our deepest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came;
Back to God we humbly give you,
Live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving parent,
Learn to know whose child you are.
Grow and laugh and sing and worship,
Trust and love God more than all.

Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

***Hymn**

"I Sing a Song of the Saint of God"

#298 in The Hymnal

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school,
or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

Pastoral Prayer

Response: (*"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"* #305)

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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 Thanksgiving *(In Unison)*

O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living others may discover You. Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places. Thank you for calling us into a life such as this and bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

The Communion Prayer

ONE: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

ALL: We are ready!

ONE: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

ALL: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

*Hymn

"Just As I Am"

#339 verses 1, 3, 4

**Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, thou will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown,
hast broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be thine, yes, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

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.**

ONE: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

ALL: "Take eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

ONE: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said

ALL: "Take drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

ONE: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread

ALL: We participate in the Body of Christ.

ONE: Through the cup of blessing

ALL: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Sharing of Bread and Fruit of the Vine

Prayer of Gratitude (In Unison)

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	<i>"Lord, Make me More Holy"</i>	NCH 75
<p style="text-align: center;"> Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy, until we meet again. Holy, holy, holy until we meet again. </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Lord, make me more faithful, Lord, make me more faithful. Lord, make me more faithful, until we meet again. Holy, holy, holy until we meet again. </p>		

Benediction

Postlude *"Come Ye Thankful People, Come"* **Elvey**

COPYRIGHT NOTICE - © Music used with permission of Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc. #696970

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
 Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
 Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
 Special Music: **Chancel Choir**
 Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
 Pianist: **Ellen Brandon**
 Chancel Choir:
Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon,
Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin,
Susie Pisoni, Helen Stortz, Evelyn Weber

Announcements

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

We pray for
**Ava Baumann, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Shwetha Notch, Margie Paul,
Jennifer Spenader, Barbara Tretter, Amy Tucker and Paul Van Driest.**
Please let us know your prayer concerns

11/12/23 Service
Liturgist: **David Leech**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
Special Music: **Trumpet, Robert Souza**

11/19/23 Service
Liturgist: **Erin Armstrong**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
Special Music: **Bells**

A Look Ahead

11/5	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (library)
11/6	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (zoom)
11/8 & 9		ECC Parent/Teacher
11/10		Veterans Day (office closed)
11/11		Harold Freiberger Celebration of Life
11/19	11:15 AM	Christian Education Committee (community room)
11/19	11:00 AM	Cemetery Board Meeting
11/20	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
11/21	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Service at St. John's
11/22		ECC No School
11/23 & 24		Thanksgiving Day (office/ECC closed)
11/26	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
11/26	10:00 AM	Totenfest
11/26	10:00 AM	No Sunday School
11/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (library)
11/27	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
11/28	8:00 AM	Giving Tuesday
11/28	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
11/30	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship

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

CAN YOU HELP A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS, HAVE THAT SPECIAL JOY THAT COMES WITH THEIR OWN GIVING?

As they gear up for the holiday season, **ECH** is preparing for the children to visit **The Hope Chest** looking for gifts for their loved ones. There is an urgent need to fill The Hope Chest shelves with gifts suitable for both children and adults. Please bring in a new toy or gift type item by Sunday, December 3rd. All items may be brought to church and placed on the table near the Missions bulletin board in the fellowship hall **by Sunday, December 3rd**. Thank you so very much for helping one of our important UCC institutions by making it possible for the children in their care to know the joy that comes in giving.

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

15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org