

# St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship      May 10, 2026

*Sixth 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)*

*Members and Visitors please make note of your attendance by signing in on the pew pads.)*

## \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

**And also, with you**

Prelude

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

arr. Dobrinsky

## \*The Call to Worship

When all seem to have abandoned us and left us to face the world alone, the Risen One comes to us.

**The Spirit of Truth, our Advocate with God, is here to walk with us and lead us to the truth.**

This is the One whom the world cannot see, and yet the One who abides with us forever.

**We are not alone! We are lavishly loved by God, led faithfully by the Spirit, and living fully in the presence of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen**

\* Hymn

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

#56

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thy church that evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
one pure sacrifice of love,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

## \* Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

Holy and Present God, hear the sound of praise as we share this space and time gathered among you. May our hearts be opened and our minds engaged. Let the Spirit of Truth live in our songs of adoration, prayers of intercession, and words of pondering. In your name, glory and honor. Amen.

*“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”*  
**Child of God your loving parent,  
 Learn to listen for God’s call  
 Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
 Trust and love God more than all.**

Special Music

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

arr. McChesney

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

**Scriptures: Acts 17:22-31 & John 14:15-21**

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor[a] he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God[b] and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

29 “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**John 14:15-21**

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**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	"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"	#517
<p>Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.</p>		<p>Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.</p>
<p>Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest; take away the love of sinning, alpha and omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.</p>		<p>Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.</p>

**WE RESPOND TO 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**

<b>Offering</b>	<i>"The Gift of Love"</i>	<b>Hopson arr. Carter</b>
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**\*Doxology (In Unison)**

**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)**

**By your goodness, O God, we have received all things, so all that we have and all that we are we offer up to you. May these gifts, tokens of our gratitude, be made complete in our commitment to living transformed lives of service and love. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* Hymn

*"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

#453

Called as partners in Christ's service  
Called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace  
May we learn the art of sharing  
Side by side and friend with friend  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfil God's chosen end

Christ's example Christ's inspiring  
Christ's clear call to work and worth  
Let us follow never faltering  
Reconciling folk on earth  
Men and women richer poorer  
All God's people young and old  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission  
In a small or global sense  
Help us bear each other's burdens  
Breaking down each wall or fence  
Words of comfort words of vision  
Words of challenge said with care  
Bring new power and strength for action  
Make us colleagues free and fair

So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife  
Make us partners in our living  
Our compassion to increase  
Messengers of faith thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace

**Benediction**

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**  
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**  
Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**  
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**  
Handbells: **Norma Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Pastor Katie Jo Bielke, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Chris Norton, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni**

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**The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God in celebration of  
Kathy and Mike Scherr's Fortieth Wedding Anniversary**

*Announcements*

Please pray for

**Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Lee Difani, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener  
Danny Mueller, Anita Paz, Lindsey Spahr, Melanie Spangler and Michelle Unruh.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns. Private prayer concerns speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

**Food for Circle of Concern**

Our **donations** have been **down**, but the **need continues**. During the month of May we are doing a special drive. Please bring at least one item each week. There is a shelf upstairs and one downstairs where you can place the food. The Food Pantry's current needs; **Dinner Helpers, Cereal/Oatmeal, Snacks** (8-12 servings). And understandably Circle of Concern **does not accept expired** food.

**Sign up for the following fun activities:** Using your phone and the QR code

**HOW TO SCAN A QR CODE**

1. OPEN YOUR CAMERA 2. POINT IT AT THE QR CODE 3. TAP THE LINK THAT POPS UP



Sun, 5/24 10 AM  
Strengthen the Church Offering



Sun, 5/24 4:00 PM  
Ronald McDonald House



Tue, 5/26 6:30 PM  
Women's Game Night



Thu, 5/28 5:30 pm  
Table Fellowship Spiro's



Sat, 6/6 8 am  
Habitat Build

*... Looking Ahead*

Wed	5/13		ECC last day of classes
Sun	5/17		Bimonthly Newsletter
Mon	5/18	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Sun	5/24	10:00 AM	Pentecost Sunday wear red
Sun	5/24	10:00 AM	Strengthen the Church Offering
Sun	5/24	4:00 PM	Ronald McDonald House volunteer
Mon	5/25		Memorial Day Office Closed
Tue	5/26	10:00 AM	Book Club "The Names" by Florence Knap
Tue	5/26	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Thu	5/28	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship, at Spiros
Sun	5/31	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	5/31	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting

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

**05/17/26 Service**

Liturgist: **Daniele Dolan**  
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**  
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**  
 Special Music: **Harp**

**05/24/26 Service**

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**  
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**  
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**  
 Special Music: **Choir**

**05/31/26 Service**

Liturgist: **Jan Ittner**  
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**  
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Christine Norton**  
 Special Music: **Flute**

We are livestreaming Sunday morning services.  
 You can join us live or watch the YouTube video later.

**Facebook:** livestream:



**YouTube:** video here:



**Website:** info here:



**Offering**



**Join us on Sundays**  
 9:00 a.m. - **Fellowship** with coffee and donuts  
 10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School**  
 10:00 a.m. - **Worship**  
 In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

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