

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship Sep 7, 2025
Thirteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringling 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	"Joyful, Joyful"	Smith
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*The Call to Worship

Friends in Christ, come apart from the chaos for a while, and linger in the presence of God who is our source of life.

God calls us to renew ourselves, and to find our life's purpose.

The One who has made us would not have us journey alone. We gather as a sacred community of love, together on the quest to know God's hope for our lives and for this church.

May we truly seek to live more faithfully as Christ's family, listening for the voice of God in our midst.

* Hymn	"In Christ There is No East or West"		# 687
In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.	Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be; all children of the living God are surely kin to me.		
In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord, close binding humankind.	In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north: all loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.		

*Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

We come to you, O God of wonder, because you first came to us. You have known us long before we came into this world, and you have searched for a relationship with us and with all your children. Draw us back into the wonder of searching for a deeper connection with you. And in that searching, may we come to better know ourselves as we truly are, and as you would want us to be. Amen.

Celebrating Christian Milestones 3rd Graders get Bibles

Time for the Child in us All		Pastor Katie Jo
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"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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Psalm 1 & Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

The Two Ways

- ¹ Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message:

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.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest;
take away the love of sinning,
alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

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.

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.

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 or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory	"Quiet Song"	Smith
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*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*)

With hearts of praise, O Lord, we dedicate to you these gifts as tokens of our lives and work. Use them, as you use us, to the fulfilling of your purposes for creation, that we might give glory to you not only in the hearing, but in the doing of your word. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Telling the Story

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Meal *(the wafers in the middle of the bread trays are gluten free)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience, that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to the table where all your saints feast with you forever. We offer ourselves to you to be sent us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	<i>"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"</i>	#344
I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus-- no turning back, no turning back.	Though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow, no turning back, no turning back.	
The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me-- no turning back, no turning back.	Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back.	

Benediction

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Communion Service: **Carolyn Golfin & Judy Dierberg**
Organist: **Evelyn Weber**

Join us for "Rally Day Brunch" after service, all are welcome.

Announcements

We pray for: **Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Cherie Messina, Anita Paz, Melanie Spangler and the Wilhelm family**

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

Global Ministries request that we pray with **Mozambique** this week

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has kept Heidi Roberson in their prayers over the past few months. We're thankful to share that her latest scan was clear, and we can now confidently use the word "recovering" when speaking about her health. While follow-up treatments remain, the most difficult and uncertain phase is behind her. Katie Wilsdorf

9/14/25 Service

Liturgist: **Amanda Jones**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Special Music: **Piano/Organ Duet**

9/21/25 Service

Liturgist: **Danny Mueller**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Special Music: **Choir & Bells**

9/28/25 Service

Liturgist: **Amanda Jones**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Nora Amato**

... Looking Ahead

Mon	9/8	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Tue	9/9	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due EOD
Sat	9/13		Festival of Sharing
Sun	9/14		Lion King Ticket Deadline
Mon	9/15	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed	9/17	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	9/21	11:00 AM	New Member Class
Tue	9/23	10:00 AM	Book Club "The Great Gatsby"
Tue	9/23	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Thu	9/25	9:15 AM	Ste Genevieve Trip
Thu	9/25	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship
Fri	9/26	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due EOD
Sun	9/28	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	9/28	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Sun	9/28	4:30 PM	Ronald McDonald House

Save the date for the popular Stemme Farm Picnic & Hayride! Sunday October 12 5:00-8:00pm

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

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

Sign up for Activities easily using your mobile phone and the QR codes below

Subscribe Newsletter



Women's Game Night



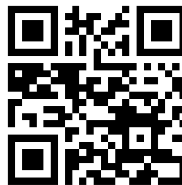
Table Fellowship



Ste. Genevieve



Sep 25



select St. John's Early
Childhood Center

Lion King



Nov 16

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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