

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

"A Million Dreams"

Pasek & Paul arr. Hakkarainen

*The Call to Worship

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

AMEN!

* Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#517

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.

*Invitation to Confession

* Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

O Lord, we confess that we have been swept up by the world's ideas. We have too easily striven for more praise from others, or believed that we needed more. We listened to the voice that said we weren't good enough yet, but from now on, our eyes will not be blinded by the lights. We will come back home to you and the life you desire for us. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

However far we wander, God is always ready to receive us, to enfold us in love and grace. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

Children's Time

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Pastor Katie Jo

**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

"Never Enough"

Pasek & Paul arr. Hakkarainen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Psalm 32 & 2 Corinthians 5:16-18 & Luke 15:1-3:11b-32

Psalm 32

The Joy of Forgiveness

Of David. A Maskil.

- 1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- 2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- 3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah
- 6 Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
- 7 You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
- 10 Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
- 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

2 Corinthians 5:16-18

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

Luke 15:1-3:11b-32

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable:

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

11 Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

**Our Father, we have wandered
And hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
Your legacy of grace.**

**But now, in exile dwelling,
We rise with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling,
We hear you call our name.**

**And now at length discerning
The evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning
With hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
And home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us
With calf and robe and ring.**

**O Lord of all the living,
Both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving
And ever caring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing,
Our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
In pardon and in peace.**

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, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

"From Now On"

Pasek & Paul arr McSweeney

***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*)**

**Thank you, God, for the generosity that enables us to share. We are rich in many things.
Help us to empty ourselves of pretence, even as we pour out gifts of gratitude. We dedicate
our offerings and ourselves to shaping the community you intend, in the spirit of Christ.
Amen.**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn**

"Softly and Tenderly"

#340

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
patient and loving, he's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.**

[Refrain:]

**Come home, come home
ye who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we wait, then,
and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]**

**O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me;
tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]**

Benediction

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

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Phil Difani**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**

Announcements

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

We extend our Christian sympathy to Merilee & David Dauster on the passing of their son David. David was taken into God's care and keeping Sunday March 23, 2025.

We ask that God's presence will provide strength in this time of grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Dauster family.

We pray for
Sharon Barber, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina, Rev. Peter Muschinske, Anita Paz and Gloria Vaclavik.

Please let us know your prayer concerns.

If you have private prayer concerns please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke

St. John's United Church of Christ
15370 Olive Blvd

HOLY WEEK

**PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
APRIL 13 AT 10 AM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL
APRIL 17 AT 6 PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
APRIL 18 AT 6 PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 20 AM
FOLLOWED BY AN EASTER EGG HUNT AT 11 AM**

PREPARE YE

You're Invited

Please pick up an invitation in the narthex and share it with a friend or neighbor.

04/06/25 Service

Liturgist: **Warren Stemme**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Karen & Dan Rocchio**
Communion Service:
Carolyn Golfin & Judy Dierberg
Special Music: **Handbells**

04/13/25 Service

Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
Special Music: **Violin**

04/20/25 Service

Liturgist: **Amanda Jones**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
Special Music: **Handbells & Choir**

Current Needs in *Circle of Concern's* Food Pantry (updated 3/14/2025).

Dinner Helpers	Pasta Sauce	Canned Fruit	Condiments
Snacks (8-12 servings/package)	Size 5 and 6 Diapers	Baby wipes	

... Looking Ahead

Sun	3/30	10:00 AM	One Great Hour of Sharing offering
Mon	3/31	10:00 AM	Lenten Study join us.
Wed	4/2	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Thu	4/3	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	4/6	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
Sun	4/6	11:00 AM	Christian Education
Mon	4/7	10:00 AM	Lenten Study
Wed	4/9	9:30 AM	Bellefontaine cemetery tour (limit 10)
Wed	4/9	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due EOD
Sun	4/13	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday
Sun	4/13	11:00 AM	General Synod Volunteer information session
Mon	4/14	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Thu	4/17	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Thu	4/17	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Meal & Service
Fri	4/18	6:00 PM	Good Friday Service
Sun	4/20	10:00 AM	Easter
Sun	4/20	11:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt (please rsvp)

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



online giving



One Great Hour of Sharing Donation



News & Events

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

15370 Olive Blvd.
 Chesterfield MO 63017
 (636) 532-0540
stjohnsuccconlive@gmail.com
www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

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

VBS 7/21 – 7/25



Volunteer Now

Lenten Study



Monday 10 AM

Women's Game Night



Apr 22

Table Fellowship



Apr 24

Butter braids fundraiser ECC



thru Apr 7

Bellefontaine Cemetery Tour



Apr 9

Easter Egg Hunt



Apr 20