

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

Thought for Preparation

We who have lost our sense and our senses—our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are; we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our Earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt. We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the Earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion. We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet: for simple being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again.

Welcome and Announcements

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

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you.

Prelude

"Holy Ground"

Davis arr. Larson

*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 96)

One: Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

All: Say among the nations, 'The LORD is king!'

One: The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

All: God will judge the peoples with equity.

One: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

All: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

One: Let the field exult, and everything in it.

All: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD;

One: for God is coming to judge the earth.

All: God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with God's truth.

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Gentle God, you shepherd us in times of trouble. When the way seems dark, you guide us safely through. When we cannot bear to slow down, you show us the wisdom of Sabbath rest. In your presence there is life, overflowing, abundant and free. As we rest in your goodness, teach us, O Lord, to see with your heart. Open our eyes to the world beyond our neighborhoods, and to your beloved children both near to us and far. Open our hearts to the blessed fierceness of your creation, which sustains us and yet is more powerful than we can imagine. Anoint us with your spirit of blessing, that we might be as Christ to one another, in our welcome, compassion and care. Amen.

*Hymn

"Morning Has Broken"

#53

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

Creator, forgive us for our sins against you and your Creation. With your help, may we work towards a new creation, one in which all creatures are freed from the bondage of greed and accumulation and are able to flourish into wholeness. May this church be a site of redemption, resilience, and hospitality; an extension of your love to all who are affected by the climate crisis. In this land, this structure, this community, this worship, may we love you more fully by seeking justice for our neighbors. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Special Music

"Habanera"

Ravel

For the Child in Us

Helen Storz

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

*Hymn

"Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us"

#231

Sing of one who walks beside us
and this day is living still,
one who now is closer to us
than the thoughts our hearts distill,
Christ who once upon a hill-top,
raised against the power of sin,
died in love as his own creatures
crucified their God and Friend!

We have walked with him as strangers
through the journey of the day,
and have told him of the violence
that has swept our hope away.
He has offered words of comfort,
words of energy and light,
Did our hearts not blaze within us
as he broke the bread this night?

Risen one, stay with us,
raise us, once again the night is near.
Dine with us and share your wisdom,
free our hearts from every fear.
In the calm of each new evening,
in the freshness of each dawn,
if you hold us fast in friendship
we will never be alone.

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.

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.)

*Hymn	"Take My Gifts"	#381 vs 3
Take whatever I can offer-- gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.		

Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)

Thank you, God, for the privilege of joining with Christ in the proclamation of your love for all people. May the ministries we support serve to unite people across all differences, building up the body of Christ and reaching out to the world with your love. Bless our gifts and all who give to make your love known. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Let the Whole Creation Cry	#21 vs 1 and 3
Let the whole creation cry, Alleluia! "Glory be to God on high!" Alleluia! Sun and moon, lift up your voice, Alleluia! Night and stars, in God rejoice, Alleluia!	Men and women, young and old, Alleluia! Raise the anthem manifold; Alleluia! Join with children's songs of praise, Alleluia! Worship God through all your days, Alleluia!	

Benediction

Postlude	"Lord of the Dance"	arr. Larson
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Preaching:	Pastor Lisa Hart
Director of Music Ministry:	Ruth Notch
Liturgist:	David Leech
Song Leaders:	Mike & Kathy Scherr
Flautist:	Jennifer Adams
Usher Team:	John Bartelt
Technology Team:	Steve Hawkinson
Fellowship & Lockup:	Laura Dierberg Ayers

Announcements

We pray for **Ava Bauman, Shirley Carmack, Zona Cetera, June Evers, Betty Gschwind, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer, Donna Switzer and Paul Van Dries.**
Please let us know your prayer concerns.

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **Lebenon** this week

04/30/23 Service

Liturgist: **Erin Armstrong**

Usher Team: **Phill Difani**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**

05/07/23 Service

Liturgist: **Rev. Dr. Rich Brandon**

Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Nora Amato**

Graduation Celebration!

Help us celebrate all of the graduations & accomplishments of our students. If someone in your family graduated this year from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, or any accomplishment you want to brag about—send us a **paragraph** with **where** they are **graduating from**, what their **post-graduation plans** are, and a short list of accomplishments they achieved during the education (if you like). Send the information to the church office at stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com

A Look Ahead

4/23	All day	Earth Day Sunday
4/24	6 PM	Visioning Committee
4/25	11 AM	Remembering Your Story class
4/25	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
4/28	6 PM	St. Louis Association Trivia Night
4/30	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
4/30	11 AM	Speaker Pastor Donna Smith Pupillo Parish Nurse Program
5/7		Communion Sunday
5/8	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
5/9	11 AM	Remembering Your Story class
5/11	2 PM	ImPact Blood Drive Ivy Chapel
5/11 & 12	11 AM	ECC Mothers parties
5/14	All day	Mother's Day
5/15	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
5/16 & 17		ECC last classes
5/22	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee

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

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