

# St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship      March 1, 2026

*Second Sunday in Lent*

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

*"Morning Glory"*

Austin

### \*The Call to Worship

Come, people of God, to know again who you are, return to the One who gives you life.

**We come as children of God, longing for a closer walk with our Creator.**

The God who has given us life offers us a new birth - a new way.

**It is frightening to venture into the unknown, to live by faith rather than by sight.**

Let us venture together, daring to feel the winds of God's Spirit.

**We will join in exploring God's purposes and open ourselves to God's leading. Amen.**

\* Hymn

*"To God Be the Glory"*

#72

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that all may go in.**

**Refrain:**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!**

**Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [Refrain]**

**Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]**

### \*Invitation to Confession

**\* Prayer of Confession (In Unison)**

Lord, we are such stubborn people. We want to know all the answers. We find it hard to place our trust even in your Son. When Jesus proclaims that we can have a new life, we want to know how this is possible. How can we get rid of the old burdens and difficulties and start over again? Wouldn't it be just like climbing back into the womb to make a fresh start? How we have misunderstood what Jesus has said. New life is possible. We can place our trust in God's healing care. Forgive us, and help us, gracious Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**\*Words of Grace**

God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him. Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and blessed.

**Time for the Child in us All**

**Pastor Katie Jo**

*"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**

*"My Jesus I Love Thee"*

**Ingram**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**Scriptures: John 3:1-17**

**Nicodemus Visits Jesus**

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**We come as guests invited  
when Jesus bids us dine,  
his friends on earth united  
to share the bread and wine;  
the bread of life is broken  
the wine is freely poured  
for us, in solemn token  
of Christ our dying Lord.**

**We eat and drink, receiving  
from Christ the grace we need,  
and in our hearts believing  
on him by faith we feed;  
with wonder and thanksgiving  
for love that knows no end,  
we find in Jesus living  
our ever-present friend.**

**One bread is ours for sharing,  
one single, fruitful vine,  
our fellowship declaring  
renewed in bread and wine:  
renewed, sustained, and given  
by token, sign, and word,  
the pledge and seal of heaven,  
the love of Christ our Lord.**

**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**

**\*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)***

**Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. Amen.**

**Communion**

**Invitation & Story**

**Blessing the Elements**

**Sharing the Meal**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Light - In a spirit of gratitude we give thanks for this time at your Holy Meal. This time at the Table filled us with strength, courage, and compassion knowing that as we continue on this Lenten journey, we will find your peace surrounding us. Amen.

### WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* Hymn

*"Lift High the Cross"*

#108

**Refrain:**

**Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God in unity combine. (Refrain)**

**Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the crucified for victory. (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: **Mike Kelly**

Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**

Handbells: **Norma Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Pastor Katie Jo Bielke, Lee Difani,  
Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Chris Norton, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni**

**Lenten Study signup is now open**

## *Announcements*

**Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Andy Kissel,  
Danny Mueller, Anita Paz and Melanie Spangler.**

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

**03/08/26 Service**

Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**

Usher Team: **John Bartelt**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**

Special Music: **Clarinet**

**03/22/26 Service**

Liturgist: **Susie Pisoni**

Usher Team: **Phil Difinani**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**

Special Music: **Flute**

**03/22/26 Service**

Liturgist: **Warren Stemme**

Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**

Special Music: **Choir**

**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**

[stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com)

[www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org](http://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org)

## ... Looking Ahead

Sun	03/01/26	10 AM	Communion Sunday
Tue	03/03/26		Bimonthly Newsletter ( <a href="#">subscribe</a> )
Wed	03/04/26	6 PM	Lenten Study ( <a href="#">sign up</a> )
Thu	03/05/26	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Sat	03/07/26	6 PM	Bingo doors open at 5:30 PM
Sun	03/08/26	11:00 AM	Lydias House concludes
Sun	03/08/26		Daylight Savings Time
Wed	03/11/26	6:00 PM	Lenten Study
Thu	03/12/26	1:00 P	Sr Min Art Museum time to be determined
Mon	03/16/26	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	03/17/26		Bimonthly Newsletter ( <a href="#">subscribe</a> )
Wed	03/18/26	6:00 PM	Lenten Study
Tue	03/24/26	10:00 AM	Book Club "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd
Tue	03/24/26	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Wed	03/25/26	6:00 PM	Lenten Study
Thu	03/26/26	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship
Sun	03/29/26	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	03/29/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting

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

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

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

**Facebook:** Find the livestream here:



**YouTube:** View the video here:



**Website:** Find more Info here:



**Offering**



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



**Sat Mar 7** Lucky 7  
Bingo Night ([link](#))



**Thu, 3/26 5:30 pm**  
Table Fellowship



**Tue, 3/24 6:30 PM**  
Women's Game Night



**Weds 6 PM**  
Lenten Study

## March 2026

1  Daylight Savings	2	3 	4  6 pm Lenten Study	5 11 am Sr Min Meeting  Senior Ministry	6	7  6 pm
8  LYDIA'S HOUSE End Lydia's drive	9 1 pm Ex Cncl Mtg	10	11  6 pm Lenten Study	12	13	14