

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation

Flames. Crackling, burning flames, like tongues of fire, whipped by winds, strong, spirit winds. Yet, nothing destroyed, except fear: fear of speaking, fear of loving. Nothing destroyed, except timidity: timid actions, hesitant witness. It's Pentecost! May tongues of fire and strong winds blow again, get inside us, burn away fear, and set loose contagious joy and bold compassion. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

*Greeting

"May God's peace and love be with each of you. Talofa!"

Prelude

"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

Gottschalk

*Call to Worship

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.

Many: Today, followers of the Way gather in many places,

One: From Jerusalem to Galilee, from Pago Pago to Apia.

Many: From Rome to Arabia, from Las Vegas to Cleveland.

One: God's Spirit still blows like a mighty wind

Many: Breathing new life into the sails of our canoes.

One: God's Spirit still burns like tongues of flame

Many: Dancing over the heads of our Toa* [TOH-ah] (brave ones).

One: God's Spirit still flows like currents of living water

Many: Connecting hearts and islands of all believers.

One: Praise God!

All: Let us worship God, from whom all life's blessings flow!

*Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

O Holy Spirit, come and blow through this gathering space as Mighty Wind as you did with the apostles at the beginning of the Church. Pour your Spirit upon us all, so we may speak your words, see your vision, and dream your dreams. Flow like rivers of living water from the hearts of believers through the songs of praise, words of worship, and prayers of devotion. Amen.

*Hymn

"Wind Who Makes all Winds that Blow"

#236

Wind who makes all winds that blow--
gusts that bend the saplings low,
gales that heave the sea in waves,
stirrings in the mind's deep caves--
aim your breath with steady power
on your church, this day, this hour.
Raise, renew the life we've lost,
Spirit God of Pentecost.

Fire who fuels all fires that burn--
suns around which planets turn,
beacons marking reefs and shoals,
shining truth to guide our souls--
come to us as once you came;
burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and power, might and strength,
fill your church, its breadth and length.

Holy Spirit, wind and flame,
move within our mortal frame.
Make our hearts an altar pyre;
kindle them with your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze
till our lives, our deeds, and ways
speak that tongue which every land
by your grace shall understand.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*In Unison*)

Dear God of oceans and land and all life contained therein. You created this world and all humankind by the power of your word. You gave us islands and continents as a gift and charged us to be the stewards of what you have made. Forgive us for betraying your trust. Forgive us for our greed and arrogance. Hear the cries of islands drowning in the rising seas, oceans that rise with the melting of the ice. Hear the cries of our world in distress through storm and drought. God, help us to choose the path that leads to life. so that we may renew your Shalom in land, sea, and sky. This we ask in the name of the one who came that we may have life in abundance, your Son, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Words of Grace

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Special Music

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

Townsend

Scripture: Numbers 11:24-29 and Acts 2:1-18

One: Here ends the reading. May God add blessings to the reading and hearing of the scriptures.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

*Hymn	<i>"Spirit"</i>	#249 verses 1, 2, 4
[Chorus] Spirit, Spirit of gentleness Blow through the wilderness Calling and free Spirit, Spirit of restlessness Stir me from placidness, Wind Wind on the sea You moved on the waters You called to the deep Then You coaxed up the mountains From the valleys of sleep And over the eons You called to each thing Wake from your slumbers And rise on your wings [Chorus]	You swept through the desert You stung with the sand And you gifted your people With a law and a land When they were confounded With their idols and lies Then You spoke through Your prophets To open their eyes [Chorus] You call from tomorrow You break ancient schemes From the bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams Our women see visions Our men clear their eyes With bold new decisions Your people arise [Chorus]	

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.)

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)

Heavenly God, even as the first believers did in the early church, we lay our gifts at the feet of the apostles. May these gifts support the ministry of our congregation as well as strengthen the wider United Church of Christ and our partners. Give our leaders gifts of discernment for wisest possible use of these resources which we dedicate to you today. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you! Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"	#592
[Refrain:] Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray. Yes, every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire and smoke. All around me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]	Jordan River chilly and cold, chills the body, not the soul. Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back. [Refrain] I have heartache, I have woe, I have trouble here below. While God leads me I'll not fear, I am sheltered by God's care. [Refrain]	

Benediction

Postlude

"Fill-a Me Up!"

Choplin

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Soloist: **Meher Arora**
Liturgist: **Mary Polt**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Nora Amato**

Announcements

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

We pray for **Ava Bauman, Shirley Carmack, June Evers, Betty Gschwind, Ellen Meier, Marilyn Norton, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer and Paul Van Driest.**
Please let us know your prayer concerns.

06/04/23 Service
Liturgist: **Warren Stemme**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**

06/11/23 Service
Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**

A Look Ahead

5/28	10 AM	Strengthen the Church Offering
5/28		No Sunday School
5/29	All day	Memorial Day Office Closed
6/4		Communion Sunday
6/4		Karen Gatti Retirement Party (sign up in the Narthex)
6/4		No Sunday School
6/5	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
6/11	10 AM	Graduate Celebration in Service
6/11	10:00 AM	Summer Sunday Funday Begins
6/11	11:00 AM	Mission Hygiene Pack Assembling
6/11	11:00 AM	Cemetery Board Meeting
6/12	1:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
6/18	All day	Father's Day
6/19	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
6/19	All day	Juneteenth Office Closed
6/25	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
6/26	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
6/27	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship

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

Help Needed....!!!

We have over 125 reservations for Karen's Retirement Celebration on **June 4**. We are therefore requesting help with **Set up on June 3 at 9 am** and for **Hosting and Clean up help on June 4** during and after the event. Contact Lynn Potts at 314.494.4940

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
stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com
www.stjohnsucchesterfield.org

Our mission team still needs 1) PURELL® Portable Instant Hand Sanitizer, 2) Wet Ones Hand Wipe
3) Laundry Detergent Sheets for the period hygiene packages.

Please go to this Amazon link and place an order (items will be delivered to St. John's):

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/ql/quest-view/3UCRP7AWBX2JO>

As always, thank you for your generosity and support! Your Mission Team
Anything extra will go to loaves and fishes.