

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship

Jan 11, 2026

Baptism of Christ

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

"I will Praise Him!"

Harris arr. Campbell

*The Call to Worship

Darkness is gone. New Hope has arisen for each of us.

We are forgiven and blessed.

We are marked by God as disciples

God has entrusted us with God's own message of hope.

Come, Spirit of God, and rest upon us.

Enable us to be people of hope and peace.

* Hymn

"As I Went Down to the River to Pray"

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on sisters let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

O sinners let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on sinners let's go down
Down in the river to pray

*Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. Amen.

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**Scriptures: Matthew 3:13-17****The Baptism of Jesus**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

"The Work of Christmas"
by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

*** Hymn***"I am the Light of the World"***#469****CHORUS:**

**I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.**

**If you follow and love,
You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the magi and the shepherds have found
their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! CHORUS**

**To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and
good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above!
CHORUS**

**To free the prisoner from his chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and
goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere. CHORUS**

**To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! 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.

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)*

God of waters, as a river carries life to land, take our gifts and carry them into the world.
There, may they set people free, open closed eyes and clenched fists, proclaim faith
instead of fear, share peace instead of platitudes. This we pray in the name of the Beloved.
Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Wind upon the Waters"	#247 vs 1-2,5
Wind upon the waters, voice upon the deep; rouse your sons and daughters, wake us from our sleep. Breathing life into all flesh, breathing love into all hearts, Living wind upon the waters of my soul. Showers from the heaven, water from the earth; Gift so wholly given, source of every birth. Joy of every living thing, making all creation sing, Shower down upon the dry earth of my soul.	Wind upon the waters, rains upon the sand, Grace your sons and daughters, newborn by your hand. Come, O Spirit and renew all the life that comes from you, Send your winds upon the waters of my soul.	

Benediction

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
 Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Violin: **Tom Winter**

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.

01/18/26 Service Liturgist: Amanda Jones Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Steve Hawkinson Special Music: Flautist	01/25/26 Service Liturgist: Susie Pisoni Usher Team: Larry Sontag Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Steve Hawkinson Special Music: Handbells	02/01/26 Service Liturgist: Mary Polt Usher Team: John Bartelt Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Jan Boehm Special Music: Flautist
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

... Looking Ahead

Sun	01/11/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Mon	01/12/26	9:00 AM	ECC Fall Registration Opens
Mon	01/12/26	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Mon	01/12/26	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	01/13/26	10:00 AM	Book Club “The Cuban Heiress”
Sat	01/17/26		Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	01/18/26	11:00 AM	Budget Café January 18
Mon	01/19/26		MLK Closed
Tue	01/20/26	1:00 PM	Movie “The Ultimate Life”
Thu	01/22/26	5:30 pm	Table Fellowship
Sun	01/25/26	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	01/25/26	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting January 25
Tue	01/27/26	6:30 pm	Women's Game Night
Sun	02/01/26	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday

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

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

...Save the Date: VBS July 13-17th

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

Facebook: Find the
livestream here:



YouTube: View the
video here:



Website: Find more
Info here:



Offering

