

# St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship      September 18, 2022

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

### Prayer in Preparation

Thoughts. Ideas. Tasks we have to do. People we need to see. Things we meant to say. All this and more swirls around in our minds as we sit in this place. As we sit quietly, so quiet our minds, O God. Help us to let go of all that floats around in our heads, and let us, instead, grab hold of what your word has to say to us this day. Amen.

### Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the \* indicates when you should stand. Our church is following the current CDC guidelines.)*

### \*Passing the Peace

Prelude

*"God's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*

Spiritual arr. Adams

### \*Call to Worship

**One:** God of the infants and toddlers

**All: We worship you today.**

**One:** God of the children, teens, and adults

**All: We worship you today.**

**One:** God who welcomes our service and gifts no matter our age

**All: We worship you today.**

**One:** God who loves all the children and bends us toward justice for them

**People: We worship you today. Amen**

### \*Hymn

*"Jesus Loves the Little Children"*

**Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world.  
Red brown yellow, black and white,  
All are precious in His sight,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

### \*Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)

**We are ready, O God. Ready to hear your voice. Ready to love. Ready to shout with loud voices for those without their own voice. Ready to love the children with hands and hearts. Come, Spirit of God, Uphold our readiness. Amen.**

### \*Response:

*"Jesus Loves me"*

#113 verse 1

**Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes! Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.**

### Blessing of Backpacks

## Prayer

One: Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students.

**All: They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year. We ask your blessing on each of them.**

One: Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They represent the work and the fun of the coming months.

**All: As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.**

One: We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. We pray for the parents who participate in their children's educations.

**All: May they all be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well. We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*"O God, Who Teaches Us to Live"*

tune # 67

**O God, who teaches us to live and guides us on our way,  
For all the teachers in our midst, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For love that welcomes children in and holds them when they stray,  
For knowledge hearts and souls receive, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For wisdom, skills, and confidence where wonder leads to faith,  
For those who ask and those who hear, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For words and numbers, hopes and dreams that grow from day to day,  
For inspiration's messengers, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For all who follow teaching's call with courage and with grace  
To build a future for us all, we give you thanks and praise.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in Us All

Danny Mueller

Special Music

*"Bright & Beautiful"*

arr. Hayes

Scriptures:

**Romans 13:8-14**

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

The Message

\* Hymn:

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

#517 vs 1 and 4

**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.**

**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.**

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 [online](#), by text at 833-502-0657, or by mail. We are grateful for your support.*

**\*Doxology** (*In Unison*)

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

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

**Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them. Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need is met. May we always give from wide open hearts, full of thanksgiving. Amen.**

**WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

**\* Hymn:**

*"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"*

**#518 verses 1, 3, 4**

**This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

**In faith we gather round the table  
to taste and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**G. Schocker**

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa**  
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**  
Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**  
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**  
Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**  
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**  
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Monica Hart**

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***Announcements***

We pray for **Shirley Carmack, Betty Gschwind, A.J. Switzer and Paul VanDriest**  
Please let us know your prayer concerns.

**09/25/22 Service**  
Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**  
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Monica Hart**

**10/02/22 Service**  
Liturgist: **Rev. Rich Brandon**  
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Lynn Potts**

**Global Ministries** requests that we pray with the **Israel/Palestine** this week

**BEHOLD!** With your assistance, we together can help our **Neighbors in Need** Please give generously on October 2. Contributions to Neighbors in Need may be made online at any time

Our Mission Ministry Team has received from the UCC Global Missions Board the information on our St. John's **sponsored child, Kayla**, who is a recently placed resident of the Pringle Home for Girls in Jamaica. You can get involved by

- **Donating \$30 for a month of sponsorship**
- **Writing letters and cards and dropping them in the plate or office**
- **Creating a care package to send to Kayla.**

Sunday School begins at 10:00 in the Sanctuary.

**Join us** for our annual

**Rally Day Brunch at 11:00 after Service.**

**All are welcome!**

I am looking for **volunteers** to team teach Sunday School for students (8-12) on a rotating basis. The schedule is flexible. Please contact Kathy Sellenriek at 314-630-6174. [kathysellenriek@gmail.com](mailto:kathysellenriek@gmail.com)

Saint Louis Metro **CROP Hunger Walk** registration is open  
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/saintlouismo>

September		Festival of Sharing Collection
9/19-9/21		UCC Summit Online
9/25/22	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
9/27/22	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
9/30/22		Wine Tasting (wait listed)
10/2/22	10 AM	Neighbors in Need offering
10/2/22		World Communion Sunday
10/2/22	11:00 AM	Stewardship Speaker
9/25/22	12:00 PM	Habitat Home Dedication
10/2/22	4:30 PM	Crop Hunger Walk
10/9/22		Totenfest Names Due.

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

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**Worship Services**

**9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall**

**10:00 a.m. - Worship and Sunday School**

**In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual**