

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship

Aug 10, 2025

Ninth Sunday Ordinary Time

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

"And Can It Be"

Campbell arr. Foster

*The Call to Worship

(Inspired by Psalm 107)

The Lord comes to us this day. Are you ready?

We are ready!

The Lord challenges us to be in ministries of peace and hope. Are you ready?

We are ready!

Let us praise God who calls us to serve God by helping others.

Praise be to God who has given us hope and peace.

*** Hymn**

"Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"

#278

**Here, O Lord, your servants gather,
hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross,
joined in love we stand.**

**As we seek the realm of God,
we unite to pray:**

**Jesus, Savior, guide our steps
for you are the Way.**

**Many are the tongues we speak,
scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God,
one in love's demands.**

**E'en in darkness hope appears,
calling age and youth;
Jesus, Teacher, swell with us,
for you are the Truth.**

**Nature's secrets open wide,
changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls
find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed,
torn by endless strife,
Jesus, Healer, bring your balm,
for you are the Life.**

**Grant, O God, an age renewed,
filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray.
Send us from above
truth and courage, faith and power
needed in our strife:
Jesus, Master, be our Way,
be our Truth our Life.**

*Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

Eternal God, we long for truths that are lasting, yet we want our faith to be alive to the people and problems of today. As we move forward in an ever-changing world, may faith in Christ be our anchor, and your love be our guide through the presence and power of the Spirit. Amen.

"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

"Keep Your Lamps"

Spiritual arr: DeCesare

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**Scriptures: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16****The Meaning of Faith**

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

The Faith of Abraham

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered[a] him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.**Message:***** Hymn***"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

#622

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
 pilgrim through this barren land;
 I am weak, but thou art mighty;
 hold me with thy powerful hand.
 bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 feed me till I want no more;
 feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
 whence the healing waters flow.
 let the fire and cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through.
 strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield;
 be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
 bear me through the swelling current;
 land me safe on Canaan's side.
 songs of praises, songs of praises,
 I will ever give to thee;
 I will ever give to thee.**

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, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

arr. Purifoy

*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*)

Lord Jesus, you who expressed your kingship not by taking but by giving, not by demanding but by sacrificing – bless us now as we follow your example in giving our lives back into your hands for the sake of others. May these gifts offered freely represent our faith in God's all-sufficient provision for our lives in this world and the world to come. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"For All the Saints"

#637

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
their strength and solace in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We live and struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Benediction

Postlude

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Danielle Dolan**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**
Trumpet: **Ryan Goetter**

**Thank you for the use of your suitcases.
Please take them back home with you.**

Announcements

We pray for: **Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Cherie Messina, Anita Paz, Heidi Roberson, Melanie Spangler and the Wilhelm family**
Please let us know your prayer concerns. Private prayer concerns speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **Korea** this week

Back To School Celebration

Join us as we usher in the Back To School season on **Sunday, August 17**. We will **bless backpacks in worship**. **Students** are encouraged to bring their **backpacks**, and **everyone** is invited to bring a **symbol of their work** to be included in our blessing time. This could include your briefcase, art materials, music, stethoscope, lunch box, tools, and more.

We will celebrate all the ways we take our faith outside of the walls of St. John's UCC.

... Looking Ahead

Mon	8/11	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Tue	8/12	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Thu	8/14	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Sun	8/17	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter (subscribe using the QR code below)
Sun	8/17	10:00 AM	Blessing of the Backpacks
Mon	8/18	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	8/19	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Thu	8/21	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollenger
Tue	8/26	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due
Tue	8/26	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Tue	8/26	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollenger
Thu	8/28	10:00 AM	Book Club "The Pianist from Syria" by Aeham Ahmad
Thu	8/28	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollenger
Thu	8/28	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship
Sun	8/31	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes

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

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



Our school is **fundraising with Mabel's Labels!** If you're not familiar with Mabel's Labels, they are **personalized, durable, waterproof labels** for everything from shoes, clothing tags, water bottles and backpacks.

To support our fundraiser, pick up a **flyer in the Narthex** or visit **campaigns.mabelslabels.com** and **select St. John's Early Childhood Center (Chesterfield)**. You can pick out whatever labels or product you want and it will ship for free directly to your house! Thank you for supporting us!

08/17/25 Service

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**
 Special Music: **Violin**

08/24/25 Service

Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**
 Special Music: **Handbells & Piano Duet**

08/31/25 Service

Liturgist: **Warren Stemme**
 Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**
 Special Music: **Brass Ensemble**

Sign up for Activities easily using your mobile phone and the QR codes below

Subscribe Newsletter



Women's Game Night



June 24th

Table Fellowship



June 26th

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

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org