

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday after Easter

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation

O Christ, the risen One, ascended into heaven, yet closer than our own breath, draw us into your presence. Be near to us — near to our praises, our prayers, our words, our songs; near to our wonderings, our tentative answers, our hidden doubts, our deepest affirmations. Be near to us, risen Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

*Greeting

"The Spirit of Christ in me greets the Spirit of Christ in you"

Prelude

"Percussive Praise"

McChesney

*Call to Worship

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives. We need not look up to find God; we need only to look around:

All: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

One: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God; we need only listen to:

All: the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

*Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)

God of all times and places, whose promise of the Holy Spirit is for us as well as for generations past, let your blessing fall on us while we are together. Clothe us with the resources to be your witnesses through the church, Christ's body. May the glorious inheritance that is ours be shared that our communities may be enlightened and transformed. Amen.

*Hymn

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Refrain: Shine Jesus Shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me [Refrain]

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me [Refrain]

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

O God, we have declared ownership of what has been loaned to us for a time. we strive for knowledge and control beyond our capacity, wanting power on our own terms rather than through your Spirit. Sometimes we stand on tiptoe to view what is out of sight, then arrogantly conclude that there is nothing to see. Loving God, open our eyes and our hearts to the Spirit. Amen.

Words of Grace

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Special Music

Simple Gifts

Chimers

Scripture: Acts 1:6-14

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>"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"</i>	#337 verses 1, 2, 5
Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea, day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me" Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home, and toil, and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.	Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.	

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.

Special Music

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

arr. Waldrop

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.)

*Hymn	<i>"Take My Gifts"</i>	#381 vs 3
	Take whatever I can offer-- gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.	

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

May our giving express our care for one another and our commitment to serve the world in the name of Christ. Help us to use well all the resources you entrust to us. Equip us to carry the good news to people we meet every day as well as to unknown siblings who live in desperate circumstances we can scarcely imagine. May our gifts and our lives praise you, O God. Amen

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Alleluia! Hear God's Story"

#330

Alleluia! Hear God's story,
still unfolding with each dawn.
Taste the wine and body broken:
God's creative love lives on.
Who the neighbor? Who the hungry?
Who is thirsty for shalom?
God of journey, in your story;
lead us, with the neighbor, home.

Alleluia! Sing the story;
God's great faithfulness proclaim.
Tell of prophets and apostles;
sing the power of Jesus' name.
Who the neighbor? Who the listener?
Who has ears to hear our song?
God of history, tune our voices,
make our hopeful witness strong.

Alleluia! Dance the story;
every sinew now engage.
Tethered close in truthful worship,
boldly face the coming age.
Who the neighbor? Who the watchful?
Who will welcome life's embrace?
God of gospel, tell the story
through our dancing of your grace.

Benediction

One: As we leave this place, let us depart in the assurance that God does not remain hidden in a cloud, concealed from us.

All: God is still among us!

One: Let us not gaze longingly at heaven for a sign.

All: God is revealed!

One: Let us glimpse the face of Christ in one another. Let us celebrate the Holy Spirit, who works in our community. Let us give glory to God our Creator, today and every day.

Postlude

"Joyful Dance"

arr. Tucker

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Chimers: **Henry Breitenbach, Nolan Breitenbach, Alexander Hart, Brittany Nichols, Tyler Nichols, Elise Wickenhauser**
Handbell Ringers: **Erin Armstrong, Norma Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Lisa Hart, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Ruth Notch**

COPYRIGHT NOTICE - © Music used with permission of Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc. #696970

Announcements

Please take the **"Strengthen the Church"** envelope from your pew to bring back next week

We pray for **Ava Bauman, Shirley Carmack, June Evers, Betty Gschwind, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer, Donna Switzer and Paul Van Driest.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns.

This is a **prayer of Thanksgiving** for this wonderful gift of good health that I was blessed to share with my sister in law, **June Evers**. June is doing ok but, as with any transplant, she has a long road to recovery. I am also so **thankful** for our St. **John's family**, prayers, and all of the kindness that has been shown to me during this time. **Donna Switzer**

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

05/28/23 Service
 Liturgist: **Mary Polt**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Nora Amato**

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

Delegates and guests to this year's General Synod meeting, taking place in Indianapolis at the end of June, have been invited to bring assembled kits to that meeting. **Our mission team** is responding to this plea by mounting a campaign to make 50 packs, which will be delivered by **Rev. Shari Maddox**. How can you **help**?

1. Go to this Amazon link and place an order (items will be delivered to St. John's):
<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3UCRP7AWBX2JO>
2. Plan to stay after the church service on Sunday, June 11 to help assemble the kits. It will be fun and rewarding!

As always, thank you for your generosity and support! Your Mission Team

A Look Ahead

5/21	11 AM	Senior Ministry Prayer Chain Class
5/22	6 PM	Visioning Committee
5/23	6 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
5/28	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
5/28	10 AM	Pentecost Sunday Wear Red
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
7/2		Communion Sunday
7/4	All day	Independence Day (office closed)
7/10	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
7/10	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee

7/10-7/14

VBS (please register and/or volunteer)

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

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

stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org



The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

From Holy Ground - A Prayer to Strengthen the Church

By Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, Conference Minister, Heartland Conference

Loving God,
Ground us anew
In Your deep desire
For a fullness of flourishing
Yearning to rise throughout
Your whole creation.

Plant us deep
In the soil of Your love

Bursting open seeds
Often long-forgotten
Except by You
Bearing a strength
For blessing and healing
In a world of hurt.

Form Your self-giving
In our deepest selves

Giving grace and space
For Your strength of soul
To rise anew in acts
Of joy-filled giving
Bearing unexpected hope
In a world weary with worry.

Grow us in Your Holy Ground
Supplying every needed nutrient
Of body, mind, and soul
In just the right amount
At just the right time
Giving rise to a beauty
And delight not of our making
Yet requiring our consent.

By this, O Love,
Strengthen the covenant

Of Your Christ-formed community
Gifting a renewed energy
To bear Your deep desire
Into a world that hungers
For resurrection risings.

Now, strengthen Your church
With Your self-giving Spirit
That we may strengthen others
For Your holy work of unfolding
Abundant, blessed, beloved, joy!

Yes, O Love, raise us up
From your Holy Ground
For nothing less than this
And let it be more than enough.

Amen.

Through the **Strengthen the Church Offering**,
we help support the work of conferences and the
national setting as we become a multi-racial/
multi-cultural church.

