

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship Aug 18, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringing of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Beethoven arr. Ijames

***The Call to Worship**

Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

Let us worship together, the young and the old.

The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time.

Let us worship together, every generation.

We come together with different abilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope.

*** Hymn**

"Colorful Creator"

#457

Colorful Creator, God of mystery,
thank you for the artist teaching us to see
glimpses of the meaning of the
commonplace,
visions of the holy in each human face.

Harmony of ages, God of list'ning ear,
thank you for composers tuning us to hear
echoes of the Gospel in the songs we sing,
sounds of love and longing from the
deepest spring.

Author of our journey, God of near and far,
praise for tale and drama telling who we are,
stripping to the essence struggles of our day,
times of change and conflict when we choose
our way.

God of truth and beauty, Poet of the Word,
may we be creators by the Spirit stirred,
open to your presence in our joy and strife,
vessels of the holy coursing through our life.

***Gathering Prayer** *(In Unison)*

Lord, we come to you this day with so many things going on in our lives. Some of these things are wonderful and cause us to rejoice. However, there are far too many things that cause us fear and anxiety. Humbly we wait for your presence with us. We need your healing touch. Feed us with the bread of life, that we may hunger no more. Strengthen us to do your will, for it is in Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Time for the Child in us All

"Blessing the Backpacks"

Rev Katie Jo Bielke

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33

5 The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

6 So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. 7 The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. 8 The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

9 Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

15 And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

31 Then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." 32 The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to do you harm be like that young man."

David Mourns for Absalom

33 The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept, and as he went he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	<i>"Be Still, My Soul"</i>	#566
<p>Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Trust in your God, your savior and your guide, who through all changes faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.</p> <p>Be still, my soul: for God will undertake to guide the future surely as the past. Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know the voice that calmed them in this world below.</p>	<p>Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall dwell with forever more, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.</p>	

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

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

**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)*

O God, accept our offerings of self and substance to accomplish what we cannot do by ourselves. Link us with one another in faith that we may be a powerful influence for the good you want to accomplish through us. May all our gifts and our time be devoted to your will. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Ours the Journey"

#458

**In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?**

[Refrain]

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and evermore!**

**Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? [Refrain]**

**Though we reach the highest heavens,
holding worlds at our command,
we are yet a desert people
searching for the promised land. [Refrain]**

**Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit,
resurrect the church again. [Refrain]**

Benediction

Postlude

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Unfortunately, Dr. Curtis Cain had to cancel for this weekend.
He has had a death in the family and will be out of town.
Please keep him and his family in your prayers during this time.

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
 Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Rev Shari Maddox**
 Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Ken Ruff**
 Piano Duet: **Karen Rocchio & Ruth Notch**

Announcements

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

We pray for
Donna Dollgener, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina and Gloria Vaclavik. Please let us know your prayer concerns
 If you have private prayer concern please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke

<p style="text-align: center;">08/25/24 Service Liturgist: Susie Pisoni Usher Team: John Bartelt Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Ken Ruff Special Music: Violin, Voice & Harp</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">09/01/24 Service Liturgist: Craig Bielke Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Monica Hart Special Music: Flute Communion Service Helen Stortz & Mary Jane Duperrett</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">09/08/24 Service Liturgist: Carol Tindira Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Monica Hart Special Music: x</p>
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... Looking Ahead

8/18	10:00 AM	Back Pack Blessing
8/19	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
8/22	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship at Sapore Italian Café, Kirkwood RSVP
8/23	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe)
8/25	10:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for India
8/25	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
8/25	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
8/27	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
9/1	10:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for Zambia
9/1	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
9/1	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
9/2		Labor Day (office closed)
9/3	9 am	ECC School Starts
9/6	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe)
9/8	10:00 AM	Rally Day
9/8	10:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for Hungary
9/8	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee
9/9	1:00 PM	Exec Council

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities
<https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

The **United Church of Christ** says **THANK YOU!** To the members of St. John's UCC for your 2023 contribution of **\$8,250.00** for basic support of **Our Church's Wider Mission.**

We are looking for a **volunteer** to do **Altar flowers** a couple of times a year. If you are interested please contact Jan Boehm or the office 636-532-0540 or StJohnsUccOnOlive@gmail.com

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

15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccconlive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

It's time to start planning for our participation in the **Missouri Festival of Sharing** which is a coordinated ecumenical response to poverty and hunger seeking to support projects and programs that help our neighbors experience healthy and full lives.

Participating faith groups include the Disciples, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Catholics, Methodists, our UCC, non- denominational Christians, and agencies including Church World Service, Heifer International, and Mobility Worldwide.

Our St. John's Mission Ministry Team is proposing we collect the following "**kits**" to be taken to the St. Louis area "Sharefest" which is in October: **Paper Products, Personal Hygiene, Family Food Box, and Reading and Writing**. All kits must be brought to church by Thursday, October 10 so that they can be loaded for transporting to the October 12 Sharefest. The list of contents for each kit and directions for its assembly are available in the narthex. Please pick up a kit you will assemble and then return it to church by October 10.



online giving



Stained Glass Window Fund