

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

God of Mary, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Rahab—God of us all, your children here and your children afar—We enter this moment of worship with eager anticipation. We know that even before a child would come to lead the way, You were leading our way. From the valleys of the shadows of death to the tables in the presence of enemies, you have never left us nor forsaken us. Your rod and your staff have guided us. Guide us now, O God. Make your presence known as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

*** Passing of the Peace. Greet one another spreading the news of God's Joy**

Prelude

***Call to Worship** *(Psalm 34 in conversation with the Magnificat)*

One: O magnify our God with me and let us exalt God's name together.

All: Our souls magnify the Lord.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

One: We will bless the Lord at all times;

God's praise shall continually be in our mouths.

All: Our souls magnify the Lord.

God's mercy endures from generation to generation.

One: Let our souls make their boasts in the Lord;

Let the humble hear and be glad.

All: Our souls magnify the Lord

for the Mighty One has done great things.

***Hymn**

"All Earth is Waiting"

#139 verses 1, 2, 3

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.
One whose name is "God with us," our Savior shall be,
Through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

*** Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)**

Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Let us Pray

One: Come, joy,

All: Lighten our spirits.

One: Come, hope,

All: Lift us from despair.

One: Come, peace,

All: Ease our frantic worry.

One: Come, love,

All: Shine in all we do.

One: Come, Jesus,

All: Be born in us.

One: Come, Lord,

All: Set us free.

One: Come, God,

All: Rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy! Amen.

***Hymn**

"One Candle is Lit"

#128

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet You as roses the light.
Salvation, draw near us Our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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

*Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, we dedicate our gifts. For the ways it will help us live out God's mission we dedicate our gifts. Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Amen.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

All the children present are invited to perform in the children's program.

Tell Me the Story

Carol	"Away in a Manger"	#147
Congregation, please join in singing the second verse		
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.		
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.		
Carol "Joy to the World" #143 one verse.		
Carol	"Joy to the World"	#143
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.		
Carol Congregation sings "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #119 verse 1		
Carol	"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"	#119
O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.		
Carol	"Silent Night, Holy Night"	#145
Congregation, please join in singing the second verse.		
Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.	Silent night, holy night. shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born!	

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Advent Candle: **The Ayers/Wickenhauser Family**
Liturgist: **Jane Lindberg**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Phil Difani**

Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God in ...

In Memory of Frank and Wilma Stortz given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.
In Memory of George and Florence Camp given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.
In Celebration of the season given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.
In Memory of George Tindira given by Carol, John & Matt Tindira.
In Memory of Roy and Irene Aldrich given by Lee and Phil Difani.
In Memory of Phil Difani, Sr. given by Lee and Phil Difani.
In Memory of Leonard J. and Laverne Haas given by Charles and Marjorie Neubert.
In Honor of our children Diana and Jason Flower and Andrea and Chris Vinyard
given by Carolyn and Byron Golfin.
In Memory of Raymond and Ruth Sontag given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.
In Memory of George and Lynn Hudson given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.
In Memory of our relatives and church members and many friends taken into God's care
given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.
In Memory of given by Monica Hart & Brian Spahr.
In Memory of given by Monica Hart & Brian Spahr.
In Memory of my loving husband Harold given by Phyllis Freiberger.
In Celebration of my wonderful family given by Phyllis Freiberger.
In Honor of Rev Carl and Maryilyn Norton given by Phyllis Freiberger.
In Honor of our family given by Ken & Jackie Ruff.
In Celebration of a Merry Christmas given by The Pisoni Family.
With thanks to Pastor Lisa given by The Pisoni Family.
In Honor of my parents, Wesley & Arland Stemme given by Warren Stemme.
In Honor of my sons, Ryan & Kyle Stemme given by Warren Stemme.
In Celebration of the congregation of St. John's UCC Chesterfield given by Warren Stemme.
In Honor of our mothers Leitha Macalady & Angelina Amato given by Charlie & Nora Amato.
In Memory of our fathers Francis Macalady Sr. & Jim Amato given by Charlie & Nora Amato.
In Celebration of our family & friends given by Charlie, Nora & Anthony Amato.
In Memory of Dorothy and Roy Steiner given by Janis Boehm.
In Memory of Pearl and George Hill given by Janis Boehm.
In Celebration of our church family given by Janis Boehm.

Announcements

We pray for
**Barb Ackerman, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Sue Kinnaman, Shwetha Notch,
Margie Paul, Barbara Tretter, Gloria Vaclavik, Paul Van Driest and Rick Wagner.**
Please let us know your prayer concerns

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

12/24/23 10 am Service
Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Advent Candle: **The Hart Family**

12/31/23 Service
Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

A Look Ahead

12/17	9:00 AM	Advent Bible Study (<i>library</i>)
12/17	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
12/17	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Advent
12/17	10:00 AM	Christmas Program
12/17	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (<i>library</i>)
12/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
12/24	10:00 AM	Christmas Fund Offering
12/24	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/24	10:00 AM	No Sunday School
12/24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
12/24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
1/1/24		New Year's Day (<i>office/ECC Closed</i>)
1/3/24	9:00 AM	ECC begins
1/6/24		Epiphany
1/7/24	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
1/7/24	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
1/8/24	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
1/8/24	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
1/15/24	12:00 AM	Martin Luther King Holiday (<i>office/ECC closed</i>)
1/15/24	6:30 PM	Council Meeting

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

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

St. John's Early Childhood Center

Preschool and Kids Day Out registration for the 2024/2025 school year will take place during the month of January 2023.

Church Members receive a 20% discount on tuition. Call right away to reserve a spot. Church Members may begin registering children now.

Preschool Classes are offered for children who are 2 ½, 3 or 4 years of age by July 31, of the current year. Kids Day Out offers classes for children who will be 16-33 months of age by 7/31 of the current year.

SJECC offers a loving, nurturing, Christian environment for young children where they can explore various concept and skill areas in fun, hands-on way.

If you are interested, please call (636) 530-7529 for a brochure or to arrange a tour of the preschool classes. Visit our web page on the Church's website.

Laura Renth, Director
stjohnsecc@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

St. John's United Church of Christ

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Join Us

This Holiday Season

10 AM Worship

1st Sunday of Advent Dec 3rd

peace

2nd Sunday of Advent Dec 10th

3rd Sunday of Advent Dec 17th

Hope

Joy

The Children's Program

Love 4th Sunday of Advent Dec 24th

Join us for Dec 24 @ 10 a.m. worship.

We will be lighting the 4th advent candle of **Love**.

Special music will include Chancel Choir & piano duets.

Come and center yourself in worship before all the busyness of the day begins.

9 AM Advent Bible Study

11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24th

4 PM Christmas Eve Service

a shorter service, geared for younger families

7 PM Candle Light Service

traditional service with candles and communion

15370 Olive Blvd.

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