

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship July 7, 2025

Fourth 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

"Amazing Grace"

arr. Hayes

*The Call to Worship

We are called together this day to praise God.

We ask that God will put us in pathways to service to others.

The Lord will walk with us as we faithfully witness to Christ's love.

Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your words and will.

Come, let us worship God!

Let us sing our praises to God our Redeemer and Healer. AMEN.

* Hymn

"Pass It On"

#477

It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love Once you've experienced it
You spread God's love to ev'ryone you want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it
You want to sing it's fresh like spring you want to pass it on

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found
On God you can depend it matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me I want to pass it on

*Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

Christ, who shows us how to be in community together, thank you for gathering us both onsite and online. We give you thanks for the ways we have been held in love in this community of faith. We are comforted by memories of mercy shown to us in difficult times, both by our friends in this space, and by your gracious presence in our lives. Empower us to be Good Samaritans in our own ways. Embolden us to seek out those who are hopeless and in need, not out of pity, but out of a deep understanding of difficulty in our own lives. Guided by your example. may we lead with radical love and brave compassion. Amen.

**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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 19:1-10 & Acts 9:1-19

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." 9 Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Acts 9:1-19

The Conversion of Saul

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; 16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." 17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul[c] and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul Preaches in Damascus

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

The Message

* Hymn	<i>"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"</i>	#589
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart. In-a my heart, in-a my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart. Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart. In-a my heart, in-a my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart. In-a my heart, in-a my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.		

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**

**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*)**

Before you, O God, we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. We lay our gifts before you in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings. May these offerings continue the transforming work of your Spirit in and through our congregation. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation

Telling the Story

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready to serve, in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	<i>"I Come With Joy"</i>	#420
I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.	The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here. Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world, the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.	

Benediction

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**

Usher Team: **John Bartelt**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**

Communion Service: **Carolyn Golfin & Judy Dierberg**

Announcements

We pray for: **Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Cherie Messina, Anita Paz, Heidi Roberson, Melanie Spangler and Gloria Vaclavik.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns. Private prayer concerns speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke

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

The **Marilyn Norton Scholarship Fund** was established to honor SJ ECC's founding director, Marilyn Norton, and it is used to provide assistance to families in need with help in covering the cost of preschool tuition.

If you would like to make a donation to the Fund, please contact Laura Hewgley or John Bartelt. Gifts can be made payable to SJECC and please note they are for the Marilyn Norton Scholarship Fund.



Coffee with Reverend Dollgener

Coffee Klatch is a social gathering for informal conversation at which coffee is served. Please join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM for a time of fellowship. All are welcome! We will enjoy coffee, light snacks and conversation in the library.

Needed: Postcards from all over.

In VBS we are taking a Road Trip with God, so we are looking for postcards from all over to hang on our bulletin board. Please ask friends and family from out of town to send postcards by July 14 to St. John's UCC 15370 Olive Blvd Chesterfield, MO 63017.

VBS and PBJ

We will again be having a **Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive** this year during VBS. Bring in jars of peanut butter and jelly to donate to Circle of Concern. Feel free to drop them in the Narthex, office or the bin out front. **July 7th through the 26th.**

... Looking Ahead

Tue	7/8	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Wed	7/9	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due
Thu	7/10	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Fri	7/11	8:00 AM	General Synod is July 11-15
Sun	7/13	11:00 AM	Christian Education Mtg
Mon	7/14	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Tue	7/15	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Wed	7/16	6:00 PM	VBS Training
Thu	7/17	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter (subscribe)
Thu	7/17	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Sun	7/20	11:00 AM	VBS Decorating Sunday
Mon	7/21	9:00 AM	VBS
Mon	7/21	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	7/22	9:00 AM	VBS
Tue	7/22	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Tue	7/22	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Wed	7/23	9:00 AM	VBS
Thu	7/24	9:00 AM	VBS
Thu	7/24	10:00 AM	Coffee with Rev. Dollgener
Thu	7/24	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship
Fri	7/25	9:00 AM	VBS
Sat	7/26	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due
Sun	7/27	10:00 AM	VBS Sunday

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

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



online giving



[News & Events](#)

07/13/25 Service Liturgist: Jan Ittner Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Laura Dierberg Ayers Special Music: Flute, Choir & Handbells	07/20/25 Service Liturgist: Jane Lindberg Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Laura Dierberg Ayers Special Music: Vocalist	07/27/25 Service Liturgist: Merilee Dauster Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Laura Dierberg Ayers Special Music: VBS kids
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 <i>stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com</i> <i>www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org</i>	
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
Altar Flowers 	VBS 7/21 – 7/25 Volunteer 	VBS July 21 – 25, 2025  Registration

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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