

# St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
**10 A.M. Worship      November 12, 2023**  
*Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

## WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

### **Prayer of Preparation      Psalm 70**

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me! Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, 'God is great!' But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

### **Welcome and Announcements**

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

**\* Passing of the Peace      "Peace be with you!"**

**Prelude      "If With All Your Hearts"      Mendelssohn**

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

**All: We hear your Still Speaking voice. We come to you, Wisdom, seeking knowledge and understanding.**

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

**All: We remember your marvellous acts and faithful instruction. We come to you, Wisdom, as you have been near to us!**

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

**All: We trust in your guidance and place our hope in you through feast and famine. We come to you, Wisdom, to worship and to serve.**

### **\* Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

O God, your Wisdom illuminates our path. Shine your light into dim spaces so that we do not stray from your teaching. Help us discern what you are calling us, your church, to do and be in this moment in time. Give us urgency to be good news in the world and for our neighbors. Let your glory reign among us and your Spirit lead us into truth, justice, and love. For your name and in your name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn	“Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud”	#12
<p>Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud, Fortress, Fountain, Shelter, Light, Judge, Defender, Mercy, Might, Life whose life all life endowed:</p> <p>Refrain: May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.</p>	<p>Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine, Shepherd, Savior, Servant, Lamb, Well and Water, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM: Refrain</p> <p>Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove, Thunder, Tempest, Whirlwind, Fire, Comfort, Counselor, Presence Love, Energies that never Tire. Refrain</p>	

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

Wise God, we often seek counsel from so many sources while ignoring your guidance. Help us to navigate the tough choices we must make and to discern the circumstances of our world and our lives through your perspective. Your way is life and embodies care, compassion, and concern for all creation. May we follow your model for the flourishing of our human siblings and our home, the Earth. Amen.

## Words of Grace

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

## Special Music

*"Adoro te devote"*

Wetzler

## Time for the Child in us All

Helen Stortz

**Scripture:** Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 and Matthew 25:1-13

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>"Fill the world with Love"</i>	#467 verses 1, 2, 4
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With the vision in our minds of how the world could be,  
and the fullness of our hearts from the suffering we see;  
when we make all that we are and have part of God's destiny,  
we can fill the world with love,  
we can fill the world with love.

All the people in this world living lives of pain and fear,  
crying out into the night, wond'ring when someone will hear;  
while there are so many others having so much they can share,  
can we fill the world with love,  
can we fill the world with love.

Let us hesitate no longer in our doubt and our dismay;  
there's a pow'r at work within us that has promised a new day.  
And the time will surely come, it will not be long delayed  
when God fills the world with love,  
when God fills the world with love.

## 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.

**Response:** *("Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #305)*

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace

## Mission Moment

Jane Lindberg

## 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.)

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly hosts:

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

Discerning God, receive our offerings and gifts for your kingdom. Let them be a blessing to those in need of encouragement, material goods, and evidence of your presence among us. Magnify them beyond our imagining and grant us insight into the possibilities before us for ministry and witness. We are grateful to give. Amen.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	<i>"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"</i>	#461 verses 1, 2, 4
Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need, Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed: We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart; Consecrating to Your purpose Every gift which You impart.  Still Your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread; Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead. As O Lord your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the love your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.		Called by worship to your service, Forth in your dear name we go To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show; Hope and health, good will and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give, That your servants, Lord, in freedom May Your mercy know and live.

## Benediction

## Postlude

*"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

arr. Curnow

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**  
Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**  
Liturgist: **David Leech**  
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Carol Tindira**  
Special Music: **Trumpet, Robert Souza**  
Songleaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

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# *Announcements*

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

## **11/19/23 Service**

Liturgist: **Erin Armstrong**  
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**  
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Carol Tindira**  
 Special Music: **Bells**

## **11/26/23 Service**

Liturgist: **Susie Pisoni**  
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**  
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Carol Tindira**  
 Special Music:

## **A Look Ahead**

<b>11/12</b>	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Christian Education Committee</b>
<b>11/19</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Cemetery Board Meeting</b>
<b>11/20</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>
<b>11/20</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Personnel Committee Meeting (zoom)</b>
<b>11/21</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Joint Thanksgiving Service at St. John's</b>
<b>11/23 &amp; 24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving (office/ECC closed)</b>	
<b>11/26</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Advent Bible Study (library)</b>
<b>11/26</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes</b>
<b>11/26</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Totenfest</b>
<b>11/26</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>No Sunday School</b>
<b>11/26</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Mission Meeting (library)</b>
<b>11/27</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Visioning Committee</b>
<b>11/28</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Giving Tuesday (link to page)</b>
<b>11/28</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Bunko Women's Fellowship</b>
<b>11/30</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Table Fellowship</b>
<b>12/2</b>	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Meet and Greet, Pastor candidate</b>
<b>12/2</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Lunch followed by Hanging of the Greens</b>
<b>12/3</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Advent Bible Study (library)</b>
<b>12/3</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Communion Sunday</b>
<b>12/3</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>12/3</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Candidating Worship Service &amp; Vote</b>
<b>12/3</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Senior Ministry Meeting (library)</b>
<b>12/3</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Poinsettia Orders Due</b>
<b>12/4</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Personnel Committee Meeting (zoom)</b>
<b>12/10</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Advent Bible Study (library)</b>
<b>12/10</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>12/10</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Ted Gottlieb "Medicare 101"</b>
<b>12/16</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Habitat Build</b>
<b>12/17</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Advent Bible Study (library)</b>
<b>12/17</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes</b>
<b>12/17</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>12/17</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Mission Meeting (library)</b>
<b>12/18</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>
<b>12/24</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>12/24</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>12/24</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candle Light Service</b>

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

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

We pray for  
**Ava Baumann, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Shwetha Notch, Margie Paul,  
Jennifer Spenader, Barbara Tretter, Amy Tucker and Paul Van Driest.**  
Please let us know your prayer concerns

The St. John's search committee is asking you to **save the** following important **dates** to meet our recommended pastor and attend the worship service.

**Saturday, December 2, 10:15** am in the Fellowship Hall to **meet the candidate** and family. **Lunch** follows from 11:00 to 12:00. Also, please consider staying for about an hour for cleanup and **hanging of the greens** after lunch.

**Sunday, December 3,** candidating worship service at **10:00** am. We're asking all members to attend this most important event for St. John's. There **will be a vote** immediately **following** the **worship service** and a celebration **luncheon**.

Thank you, Your St. John's Search Team

### **Thank You.**

We wanted to thank St. John's and all the amazing people who worked so hard to make our mom's Memorial service so special. Pastor Lisa's message was just perfect. And from the food and table set up, to the AV and sanctuary work, and much more.... You all were the best. I don't want to give names because I'm so afraid I will accidentally leave someone out. But each and every one of you are so appreciated and we couldn't have done it without you.

I hope you remember how much this church meant to our mom, and every single person in it. She loved you and we do too! Thanks again for everything!

Lisa Jones and all of Shirley Carmack's family

*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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***www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org***



Please join us for a

*Combined  
Thanksgiving  
Worship Service*

Tuesday, November 21 at 7 pm