

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship

Aug 23, 2026

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

"Soliloquy"

Helman

*The Call to Worship

Let us give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts, bowing down to sing God's praise.

Let us give thanks to God's name for steadfast love and faithfulness.

We have called, and God has answered, increasing the strength of our souls.

Let all of us sing the ways of the Lord who is great in glory.

Though God is high above all, God looks with care upon the lowly.

God's outstretched hand will save us and complete God's purpose for us. God's steadfast love endures forever.

* Hymn

"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"

#16

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy never ceasing
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise to thee an altar;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

* Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

Loving God, call us together as your people; transform us with your love. Transform our hearts, that we may love generously. Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace.

Transform our hands, that we may serve others. Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of Christ, gathered to worship and sent out to serve. Amen.

Special Music

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

Schalk arr. Webber

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"
**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: Exodus 1:8-2:10 & Romans 12:1-3

Exodus 1:8-2:10

The Israelites Are Oppressed

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

Birth and Youth of Moses

² Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Romans 12:1-3

The New Life in Christ

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message		Pastor Katie Jo
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* Hymn	"God of Grace and God of Glory"	#464
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God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy righteous goal,
lest we miss thy righteous goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;
fill our lives that we may be
strengthened with all Christ-like graces
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail our call from thee,
lest we fail our call from thee.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

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.

And 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 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, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory		
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***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 Lord, we bring our gifts to you, and offer them as symbols of sacrifice and service. We seek to share the story of your steadfast love and grace. Bless these gifts and all who give; use our wealth, our time, our abilities for the good of your creation. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

Benediction

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Please RSVP for the Rally Day Lunch on Aug 30th



Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Jane Lindberg**

Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Laura Ayers**

Handbells: **Norma Armstrong, Pastor Katie Jo Bielke, Lee Difani, Barb Nichols,
Scott Nichols, Christine Norton, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni**

Announcements

Please pray for

**Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Lee Difani, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Mike Kelly, Josh Kennedy and
Family, Danny Mueller, Margie Pauls, Anita Paz and Kathy Sellenriek.**

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

We are livestreaming Sunday morning services. Join us live or watch the YouTube video later.

Facebook: livestream:



YouTube: video here:



Website: info here:



Offering



08/30/26 Service

Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**

Usher Team: **John Bartelt**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Laura Ayers**

Special Music: **Violin**

09/06/26 Service

Liturgist: **Lynn Potts**

Usher Team: **Phil Difani**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Chris Norton**

09/13/26 Service

Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**

Usher Team: **Phil Difaxni**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**

Sign up for the following fun activities: Using your phone and the QR code

HOW TO SCAN A QR CODE

1. OPEN YOUR CAMERA 2. POINT IT AT THE QR CODE 3. TAP THE LINK THAT POPS UP



Sun, 8/30 10 am

Rally Day Lunch

Please RSVP for planning.



Tue, 8/25 6:30 PM

Women's Game Night



Thu, 8/27 5:30 pm

Table Fellowship

... Looking Ahead

Tue 8/25	10:00 AM	Book Club "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi
Tue 8/25	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night (Join Us)
Thu 8/27	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship Gio's (Join Us)
Sun 8/30	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun 8/30	9:30 AM	Mission Meeting (please note time change)
Sun 8/30	10:00 AM	Rally Day (Please RSVP for lunch)
Mon 9/7		Labor Day Office Closed
Mon 9/14	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Thu 9/17		Bimonthly Newsletter (subscribe stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/#contact)
Sat 9/19	4:30 PM	Ronald McDonald House (sign up sheet)
Mon 9/21	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue 9/22	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night (Join Us)
Thu 9/24	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship Mia Sorella
Sun 9/27	9:30 AM	Loaves & Fishes (note the new time)
Sun 9/27	2:00 PM	Crop Walk (donate here >>)
Sun 9/27	2:00 PM	The Kinshift Concert
Tue 9/29	10:00 AM	Book Club "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See



Crop Walk

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

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

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