

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship September 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt,
faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek as

to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life. Amen

(attributed to Francis of Assisi)

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

"Piece en sol mineur"

Pierne

*Call to Worship

One: Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

All: **With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity with mountains
and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.**

One: And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation,
and peace.

All: **O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the
many blessings you bestow on us each moment.**

One: Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

All: **Lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst
for justice.**

One: Teach us to be co-creators, with You, of a world where all belong and share in the
abundance you have given us.

All: **Praise be to God.**

*Hymn

"Restless Weaver"

#658 verses 1, 2, 4

**Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;
Gathering up life's varied fibers – every texture, every hue:
Grant us your creative vision, with us weave your world anew.**

**Where earth's fragile web is raveling, help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration – offering health where once was pain –
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.**

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**Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life – now and yet to be –
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do.
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that:

our love isn't always genuine; we see evil and wring our hands instead of resisting it; we forget to consider more ways to serve you; we turn our back on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality; we do not pray enough for our enemies; we associate with our own kind, fearing the "other"; we relish in fantasies of revenge. For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, O God, we seek your forgiveness.

Assurance of Pardon

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Rich Brandon

Special Music

"Make me a Channel of Your Peace"

arr. Hayes

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

***Hymns**

"O for a World"

#683 verses 1, 2, 3, 5

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reing of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymns**

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

#306

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. 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.)

***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*)**

In your creation, O God, we stand on the holiest of ground. May these gifts be a blessing to all that you have made. May the church, organizations and people that receive them act as your hands. May needs be seen and met, and may the giving fit the need. Through Christ, who models infinite giving. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

ONE: Up with your hearts!

ALL: **We lift them to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to God.

ALL: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer

*Hymns	<i>"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts!"</i>	#51
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts! Heav'n and earth are full of thee! Heav'n and earth are praising thee, O God most high!		

Breaking Bread, Pouring Wine

Prayer of Consecration

One: Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: **In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you.**

Let us pray now in the words of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray saying:

Prayer of Our Savior (*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.

Sharing the Elements

This is the bread of life and the cup of the new covenant.

It is given for all who come. Come and be fed for all things are ready.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (*In Unison*)**

We thank you God because you have invited us to this table. Here we are strengthened for the task ahead of us: the loving of the world. Here we receive all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith. Help us love one another and your creation more. Teach us to pray, share, sing, teach, feed, heal, call and welcome as you have done to us. Make our lives a form of praise for your love shown to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"Fill the world with Love"

#467 (all verses)

With a 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 in fear,
Crying out into the night, wondering 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.

We have spirits long to share, long to comfort and heal,
Know that when we act alone, hope is difficult to feel;
But together as we labor God's compassion to reveal
We will fill the world with love, we will 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.

Benediction

One: Go forth into the world in peace;

All: Let your love be genuine,

One: Hate what is evil,

All: Hold fast to what is good.

One: Be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

All: Labor for God's reign in all that you do, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude

"Come, You Who Love the Lord"

Lowry, arr. Lanier

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**

Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Rev Richard Brandon**

Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Phil Difani**

Clarinetist: **Rebecca Hill**

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Announcements

9/10/23 Service

Liturgist: **Amanda Jones**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Phil Difani**
 Special Music: **Violin, Chris Sasse**

9/17/23 Service

Liturgist: **Danny Mueller**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Phil Difani**
 Special Music: **Piano, Karen Rocchio**

Global Ministries requests that we pray
 with **The Philippines** this week

We pray for **June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Bill Lubbin, Ellen Meier, Jeannie Rucker, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.**
 Please let us know your prayer concerns

A Look Ahead

9/3	11 AM	Senior Ministry meeting <i>(in library)</i>
9/3	10 AM	No Sunday School
9/4	8:00 AM	Labor Day <i>(office closed)</i>
9/5	9:00 AM	ECC Begins
9/9	12:00 PM	Sharefest Drive MO Personal Hygiene
9/10	9:00 AM	Loaves & Fishes <i>(special addition)</i>
9/10	10:00 AM	Rally Day
9/11	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee meeting
9/16	12:00 PM	Sharefest Drive MO Paper Products featured
9/17	9:00 AM	Loaves & Fishes <i>(special addition)</i>
9/17	10:00 AM	Sunday School Begins
9/17	11:00 AM	Soundboard/Streaming Training <i>(in sanctuary)</i>
9/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
9/20	9:00 AM	ECC Parent Coffee
9/21	9:00 AM	ECC Parent Coffee
9/23	12:00 PM	Sharefest Drive MO Student Dental featured
9/24	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
9/21	7:00 PM	Mission Meeting <i>(in library)</i>
9/24	11:00 AM	Ted Gottlieb "Aging in Place Strategy"
9/25	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
9/26	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
9/30	12:00 PM	Sharefest Drive MO Youth Personal Care
10/1	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
10/1	10:00 AM	Neighbors in Need Offering
10/1	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting <i>(in library)</i>
10/2	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting <i>(zoom)</i>
10/3	10:00 AM	Sharefest final day to bring items in.

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



In 2023, the Neighbors in Need “**BEHOLD!**” theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet! **Offering collected October 1**

We will again be collecting for the Missouri Sharefest on October 6. We will suggest you select from one or more of the following 5 packs to assemble and share: this week we are featuring

MO Youth Personal Care
MO Personal Hygiene
MO Paper Product
MO Student Dental
MO Food Box

We will share information on different packs weekly or see the display in the Narthex.



Missouri Youth Personal Care Pack
1,175 requested versus 253 shared in 2022

Estimated
Pack Value | \$35

Instructions: Place all items in a drawstring bag, we have found the size of 17x24 to be helpful to fit all items. Place completed packs in boxes labeled with "**Missouri Youth Personal Care Packs**" and the quantity on the exterior. We no longer need the male/female distinction. These packs are for youth ages 12-18 who have experienced a crisis and who have been placed in state care or are experiencing homelessness.

Update: To make distribution easier, we are asking that you try to make kits as gender neutral as possible and donate money for us to add the body spray and feminine items as they are distributed. We suggest sending \$3 to our office for us to purchase body spray and feminine items to be added to the kits as they are handed out.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 1 chapstick | ☐ 1 bottle hand sanitizer (3 oz.) |
| ☐ 1 washcloth | ☐ 1 toothbrush |
| ☐ 1 deodorant | ☐ 1 travel size toothpaste |
| ☐ 3 ink pens | ☐ 1 travel size lotion |
| ☐ 1 journal | ☐ 1 comb or brush |
| ☐ 1 fleece throw | ☐ 1 box medicated facial cleansing pads (i.e. Stridex) |
| ☐ 1 travel size shampoo AND conditioner | |



Join us on Sundays

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School *(starting 9/10)*

10:00 a.m. – Worship

In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

St. John's United Church of Christ

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