

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship Dec 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

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

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

arr. Rouse

*The Call to Worship

All of heaven and earth sing to you, O Lord.

For we have been given a King and Savior in your Son, Jesus Christ.

As we prepare to fully welcome him,

help us to be aware of the meaning of his coming—

bringing hope among our empty lives,

peace among those whose relationships are broken,

and joy—great joy—where gloom and sorrow had once reigned.

We open ourselves to receive your great gifts. Amen.

* Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

#104

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he!

Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, sing praises;
angels and archangels sing!
And on earth let all the faithful
now your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue Christ's name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God Creator,
and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

We relight the candles of Hope and Peace

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together..

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Katie Jo

“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.**

Special Music

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Helmore

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
7 the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written,

*'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'*

11 "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	"My Soul Give Glory to My God"	#130 vs 1,3,5
My soul gives glory to my God, My heart pours out its praise. God lifted up my lowliness In many marvelous ways.	Praise God, whose loving covenant Supports those in distress, Remembering past promises With present faithfulness.	
From age to age to all who fear, Such mercy love imparts, Dispensing justice far and near, Dismissing selfish hearts.		

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 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)

Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings around the world. Let us remember that we all have times of trouble. We will each stand before you, hands clasped in prayer, begging for relief. Use what we have here to bring that relief where it is needed most. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming"

#136

**Christians all your Lord is coming
Drawing near in holy birth
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets
Let your music fill the earth
Dance and move to show God's glory
Kneel and pause to hear God's word
Alleluia Alleluia
Rise and let your songs be heard

Christians all your Lord is coming
Calling you to serve in deed
See the ones who hurt and suffer
Hear their cry and act with speed
Set all selfish ways behind you
Purge your hearts of sinful greed
Alleluia Alleluia
Christ in you will meet their need**

**Christians all your Lord is coming
He will rise up from the dead
Lift the cup of sin forgiven
Bless the host and eat his bread
Mend the ways where peace is broken
Give yourselves to true Shalom
Alleluia Alleluia
Dwell as one in church and home

Christians all your Lord is coming
Hope for peace is now at hand
Let there be no hesitation
Walk in faith where life demands
Bear the word that God has given
Share the birth that stirs your soul
Alleluia Alleluia
Christ will come and make you whole**

Benediction

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Jan Ittner**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
Piano Duet: **Karen Rocchio & Ruth Notch**

Announcements

Please pick up the small information card at the back of church and use it to invite family and friends to our Christmas worship and fellowship events.

We pray for: **Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Andy Kissel, Anita Paz, Melanie Spangler and Carol Tindira.**

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

Global Ministries request that we pray with **Taiwan** this week

12/21/25 Service

Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
Special Music: **Choir & Handbells**

12/28/25 Service

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
Special Music: **Flautist**

01/04/23 Service

Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
Special Music: **Vocalist**
Communion Service:
Donna Switzer & Helen Stortz

... Looking Ahead

Mon	12/15/25	10:00 AM	Voices of Advent Study
Mon	12/15/25	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed	12/17/25	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	12/21/25	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	12/21/25	12:00 PM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun	12/21/25	3:00 PM	Longest Night Service
Mon	12/22/25	10:00 AM	Voices of Advent Study
Wed	12/24/25	4 pm	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Wed	12/24/25	7 pm	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Wed	12/31/25	All day	New Years Eve (office closed)
Sat	01/03/26	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter (subscribe)
Sun	01/04/26	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
Sun	01/04/26	10:00 AM	Advent Blessing Boxes Due
Mon	01/05/26	9:00 AM	ECC Classes resume
Thu	01/08/26	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Sun	01/11/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Mon	01/12/26	9:00 AM	ECC Fall Registration Opens
Mon	01/12/26	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Mon	01/12/26	6:00 PM	Council Meeting

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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Chesterfield MO 63017

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www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

Online Worship:

We are livestreaming Sunday morning service. You can join us live or watch YouTube later.

Facebook: Find the livestream here:



YouTube: View the video here:



Website: Find more info here:



Offering

