

# St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship July 24, 2022

*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

## Prayer in Preparation

For the rich heritage we have received from your hand, we are grateful, O God. Now we come together, awaiting further instructions from your Word. Teach us here what we need to know in order to live faithfully in this troubled world. Lead us beyond the routines of worship to a genuine, life changing encounter with you. Amen.

## Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the \* indicates when you should stand. Our church is following the current CDC guidelines.)*

## Prelude

*"Faith of Our Fathers & Mothers"*

Faber

## \*Call to Worship

One: Gather before God, people of the covenant. Listen for God's Word, O faithful ones.

**All: God has summoned us to this place. We believe God will speak to us here.**

One: Come to honor God and give thanks. Seek to learn and follow in God's way.

**All: We come as willing and obedient followers. Let your steadfast love, O God, be upon us.**

One: God calls us as workers for justice. God sends us out as advocates for the voiceless.

**All: We are here to be equipped for ministry. We come to be empowered to serve God.**

## \*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

**God of all worlds, whose presence in our world we celebrate, lead us to deeper faith, fuller trust, and greater responsiveness. May we hear your knock, answer your call, and serve where we are sent. May all people discern the treasure you offer. Amen.**

## Hymn

*"Gather Us In"*

#284 vs 1, 2, and 4

Here in this place new light is streaming  
Shadows of doubt are vanished away.  
See in this space our fears and our  
dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
Gather us in; our spirits inflame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;  
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not just in buildings small and confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is God present, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in Us All

Pastor Lisa

COMMISSIONING THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Larry Sontag, Barb Ackerman, Kathy and Mike Scherr, Lee Difani, and Kathy Sellenreik.

One: Members of St. John's United Church of Christ, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have called to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee. Let us vow to assist them as we may and to pray for them each day.

**All: We celebrate with joy that we are partners with you our Search Committee, as we work together for Christ and the church. We promise to support you and your work, to honor your leadership, and to pray for you, that together we may fulfill God's vision and mission for our future. We pray that you will help us do our part to see that God's realm is realized on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Prayer (In Unison): Eternal God, send your Holy spirit on these 6 people that they may do their work with faith and hope. Give them the vision of your kingdom and a pastor whom you will call to be the new pastor of St. John's. Help them to not grow weary in their work, but to grow stronger in their faith and in their confidence of the future of the church. May we be united in Christ's ministry to the glory of your name. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace

Special Music

*"Amazing Grace"*

Newton

Scriptures: **Isaiah 1:10-20 and Luke 12:32-40**

One: Here ends the reading. May God add blessings to the reading and hearing of the scriptures.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

The Message

\* Hymn:

*"Hear the Word"*

tune #125 Hyfreydol

**Hear the Word of God, O people. Listen to what God will teach.  
Worship not with empty gestures: stretch your hands, your God to reach.  
Let your prayers be teamed with actions seeking justice for the poor.  
Stand against the world's oppression; work for good that will endure.**

**Wash yourselves and turn from evil; seek the cleansing God provides.  
Sins of scarlet are forgiven by the one who leads and guides.  
Doing good becomes our passion when we live in covenant,  
When the rebel sword is yielded, willing and obedient.**

**Share the bounty God has granted, giving thanks and doing good.  
Honor God through deeds of kindness in this earthly neighborhood.  
Reaching ever for the heavens, where God reigns in righteousness,  
We rejoice in our salvation and the ways that God will bless.**

Pastoral Prayer

## **Litany:**

One: Jesus, you came when we were least expecting you, and you interfered: "Come, follow me," you said.

**All: We thank you, Lord, for interfering in our private lives.**

One: You never promised us a comfortable life of success, status or prosperity: "Leave behind your old way of life. Seek first the kingdom of God," you said.

**All: We thank you, Lord, for not promising us empty rewards.**

One: You invited us to walk alongside you and learn from you. You gave us hands, lips and hearts to reach out to others all along the way.

**All: We thank you, Lord, for these essential gifts.**

One: But just when we think we've got it, just when we think we are doing all the right things, the Holy Spirit makes us restless, prodding us to change.

**All: So we thank you, Lord, for coming to us again and again, to show us your love for us and for all people.**

## **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.**

## **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 [online](#), by text at 833-502-0657, or by mail. We are grateful for your support.*

## **\*Doxology (In Unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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

**We give thanks, generous God, because we owe you more than we can ever repay. We give because we love you and want to show our devotion. We give because there are needs to be met among us and in other places where we cannot go. We give because we need to be generous in order to be whole. Loving God, bless all givers and their gifts. Amen**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* Hymn:

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

#464 vs 1, 2, 3

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.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

**Traditional Irish Melody**

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**  
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**  
Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**  
Harpist: **Amy Camie**  
Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**  
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**  
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

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## Announcements

We pray for **Shirley Carmack, Betty Gschwind, Terry Meier, A.J. Switzer** and **Paul VanDriest**  
Please let us know your prayer concerns.

**Global Ministries** requests that we pray with the **Mexico** this week

Interested in going to the **MUNY** to see **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**? The show is Aug 12-18 and we are able to get group rates starting at 15 people. The discounted ticket prices range from \$13.50-\$54.00. If you are interested, please email Lynn Potts. We'll need to choose a date and seat location to book the tickets. See the newsletter for more information.

Our Mission Ministry Team has received from the UCC Global Missions Board the information on our St. John's **sponsored child, Kayla**, who is a recently placed resident of the Pringle Home for Girls in Jamaica. Please **see the newsletter** for more information about how you can get involved.

### Circle of Concern Back to School Supplies

This year is easier. Circle is only collecting gift cards or money for back to school. Please place your \$25.00 gift cards for Walmart and/or Target as well as any monetary donations in the offering plate clearly marked "School Supply Drive".

#### 07/31/22 Service

Liturgist: **open**  
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

#### 08/07/22 Service

Liturgist: **Daniel Dolan**  
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Ken Ruff**

### A Look Ahead

July		Gift Card Drive for Circle of Concern
July		Camp MoVal Drive ( <b>until July 24</b> )
7/26/22	6:30 PM	<b>Bunko</b> Women's Fellowship
7/31/22		Mail Mid-Year <b>Statements</b>
August		Highway <b>Cleanup</b> (set your own date contact Ken or Karen)
8/7/22	11:00 AM	<b>"What is God Calling Us to Be?"</b> with lunch
8/21/22		<b>No</b> Sunday School
8/23/22	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
8/28/22		<b>No</b> Sunday School

Please check your **News Notes** specific information around **upcoming activities**.

VBS is collecting **Peanut Butter and Jelly** this year for Circle of Concern.  
Please feel free to leave your jars in the designated containers or in the circle cart outside the office.

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### Worship Services

**9:00 a.m.** - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall  
**10:00 a.m.** - Worship and Sunday School  
**In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual**