

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship November 20, 2022

*Third Sunday of Thanksgiving
From bread and cup to faith and giving*

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation

Reigning God, whose presence reassures us in times of uncertainty and fear, we pray for wisdom and courage to discern your purposes in every time and place. Help us to stand for the best we know, even if that evokes derision or betrayal. Keep us from being led astray by competing voices that compromise your intentions for us and all people. May we who seek to be the Church of Jesus Christ never become weary of doing what is right. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude

"Simple Gifts"

Page

*Call to Worship

One: Steadfast One, there is no wavering in you.

All: We come boldly, yet uncertain and unsure.

One: Fountain of truth, you reveal what is true and what is not.

All: You help us to see and hear so we'll know which road to travel.

One: Eternal Wisdom, your mind and heart are stayed on loving us.

All: We set our hearts and minds to love ourselves and others, the way that you do.

*Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

Unwavering God, we are thankful for the clarity found in you. You welcome us into your presence, even when we aren't sure of our approach to you. We delight in knowing that even when we come stumbling over ourselves, your love is sure to pick us up and steady us. Because you are love, you keep your promises to us. Help us walk unwavering in the love that helps us keep our promises too. Amen.

* Hymn:

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#517 verses 1-3

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest;
take away the love of sinning,
alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

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

Loving God, Source of Grace, we confess that at times we can be indecisive, wavering, and even suspicious concerning you. Yet, you are loving toward us even when we are not. We know that you are trustworthy, so we yield our doubts to you. You are persistent in extending grace toward us because your compassion is ever-expanding. Thank you for this moment of transformation. We give you thanks for wholeness. Amen.

Words of Grace

* Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #517 verse 4
Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Passing the Peace

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the child in us - All

Pastor Lisa

Special Music

"Give Thanks"

Raney

Scripture: **Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Philippians 4:4-9**

One: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

* Hymn:	"For the Fruit of All Creation"	#714.
For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God; for the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God; for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done; in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done; in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.	For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God; for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God; for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.	

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.**

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.)

Invitation to Generosity

One: Open your mouth and bellow a new song. A song that only your heart can sing.

All: For God has done marvelous things!

One: God is strong and we are safe. We are protected by God's strength; the nations are strengthened by God's justice.

All: For God has done marvelous things!

One: God's love extends to all. God's faithfulness reaches to the ends of the earth.

All: For God has done marvelous things!

One: Let us celebrate the God of our faith. Tell the world! Throw a party!

All: For God has done marvelous things!

One: Crank up the music! Bring in the dancing! Let your voice do the praising and your feet do the testifying.

All: For God has done marvelous things!

One: The whole earth praises our God! The sea can't keep quiet. The rivers applaud God's greatness, and the mountains shout for joy!

All: For God has done marvelous things!

One: The safest place to be is in the arms of our loving God. For, God sees all. God knows all and God bring justice to all!

All: For God has done marvelous things!

*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*)

Divine One, receive our gifts in the love we give them. Thank you for blessing us with gifts to share, so the needs of your people can be met. We offer our gifts with grateful hearts. May what we give be used to facilitate wholeness for all. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn:

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#422

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

[Refrain:] Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one.
At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Immanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

"Let All things Now Living"

Raney

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Songleaders: **Mike & Kathy Scherr**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship: **Freiberger's**
Lockup: **Monica Hart**

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Announcements

Ushers and are **needed** for the 4 and 7 pm services on **Christmas Eve**.
Ushers **contact David Thomason** at 314-878-1340.

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

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

11/27/22 Service
Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship: **Barb Ackermann & Barb Nichols**
Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

12/04/22 Service
Liturgist: **Lynn Potts**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship: **Freiberger's**
Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

Please **join us** after service for the Bread and Soup luncheon
It is being sponsored by **Grace Busch, Larry and Angie Sontag**
in **Memory of Warren Busch, Raymond Sontag and Ruth Sontag**.

A Look Ahead

November Bring in symbols of fall, harvest & thanksgiving
11/20/22 Commitment Sunday and Luncheon
11/22/22 7 PM Thanksgiving Service
11/22/22 **Poinsettia Orders Due**
11/24-25/22 Thanksgiving Office closed
11/27/22 First Sunday of Advent

11/27/22	9 AM	Loaves & Fishes
11/29/22	10:00 AM	Advent Bible Study community room
11/29/22		Bunko Women's Fellowship
December		Mitten Tree Collection
12/4/22		Second Sunday of Advent
12/4/22		Hanging of the Greens
12/6/22	10 AM	Advent Bible Study community room
12/11/22		Third Sunday of Advent
12/11/22		St. John's Children's Program
12/13/22	10 AM	Advent Bible Study community room
12/15&16	10 AM	ECC Christmas Performances
12/18/22	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
12/18/22	10 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/18/22	10:30 AM	Christmas Fund offering
12/20/22	10 AM	Advent Bible Study community room
12/24/22	4 PM	Christmas Eve Service
12/24/22	7 PM	Christmas Eve Service
12/25/22	10 AM	Christmas Day (virtual service).
12/27/22		Bunko Women's Fellowship
12/31/22		New Year's Eve
01/01/23	10 AM	New Years' Service with communion

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

St. John's United Church of Christ
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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