

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringing of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"God of Wonders"

Byrd/Hindalong arr. Raney

***The Call to Worship**

This is the place of gathering.

We gather to celebrate God's love.

This is the place of praise-bringing.

We praise God for wonderful and gracious gifts.

This is the place of listening.

We listen for God's life-giving Word to inspire and lead us.

This is the place for building faith community.

Joined in community, we can work for God's justice and bring God's peace.

*** Hymn**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

558

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, do thou befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear, O hear us when we pray.

Early let us seek thy favor,
early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast loved us, love us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast loved us, love us still.

***Gathering Prayer** *(In Unison)*

God, our Shepherd and Ruler, you give us life and joy; you know our names and provide for us all that we need: Teach us to trust in you alone and listen for your voice. Guide us in the teachings of your apostles, who devoted themselves to breaking bread and prayers. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Psalm 23 & John 10:1-18

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
- 3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

John 10:1-18

Jesus the Good Shepherd

10 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No one takes[b] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

* Hymn

"Abide with Me"

#636 vs 1-3

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens, God, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass
away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

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, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

"He Shall Feed His Flock"

Handel

*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)*

You fill our cups to overflowing and empower us for good deeds. Be pleased, O God, to use these tokens of our love for the sake of your whole flock. May our gifts serve to bring others into your fold and equip us all to live fully as your own. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

#545

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

[Refrain:] He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis thy hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]

And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God thro' Jordan leadeth me. [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

**Join us downstairs, in the library, for snacks and a showing of "Common Ground".
The film centers around regenerating the world's soils to stabilize the Earth's climate,
restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies.**

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Preaching: **Rev. Karen Pepmeier**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
Children's Time: **Jane Lindberg**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**
Song leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **Lebanon/Syria** this week

We pray for **June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina, Kathy Scherr, Barbara Tretter and Gloria Vaclavik** Please let us know your prayer concerns

04/28/24 Service

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Special Music: **Trumpet**

05/05/24 Service

Liturgist: **Jane Lindberg**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**

05/12/24 Service

Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**



ECC Spring Fundraiser
going on Now until April 29th
Order using the QRCode to the right >>>
or physical order forms will be available during
fellowship/coffee hour



Graduation Celebration! Help us celebrate all of the graduations & accomplishments of our students. If someone in your family graduated this year from **high school, college, trade school, graduate school, or any accomplishment** you want to brag about—send us a **paragraph** with where they are graduating from, what their post-graduation plans are, and a short list of accomplishments they achieved during the education (if you like). Send the information to the church office at stjohnsucconlive@gmail.com by **May 1st**.

Join us on Sundays

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

If you have any plastic Easter Eggs left over feel free to bring them by and donate them to the Church for next year's Easter egg hunt.

... Looking Ahead

4/21	11:00 AM	Earth Day Movie following services
4/21		Global Ministries Pray for Lebanon/Syria
4/22		Earth Day
4/23	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
4/25	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at Addie's Thai House 14156 Olive Blvd
4/28	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
4/28	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
4/28		Global Ministries Pray for Korea
4/29	11:00 AM	Container Gardening Class
5/3	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (<i>subscribe</i>)
5/3	5 PM	Wine Tasting (<i>RSVP to Lynn Potts date changed</i>)
5/5	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
5/5	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
5/5		Global Ministries Pray for Republic of Congo
5/6	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
5/4		20th Annual Tab Top Pandemonium
5/5	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
5/5	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
5/5		Global Ministries Pray for Republic of Congo
5/6	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
5/9		Ascension Day
5/9 & 10		ECC Mother's Day Parties
5/12		Global Ministries Pray for Palestine
5/13	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
5/14,15,15		ECC Last Day
5/17	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (<i>subscribe</i>)
5/19	10:00 AM	Celebrate the Graduates
5/19		GM Pray for Venezuela
5/20	6:30 PM	Council Meeting

more at <https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

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

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