

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prayer in Preparation

All-wise God, whose saving power has come to us in Jesus Christ, grant that we may hear and speak the truth and do what is right so our lives may be a blessing to the world and lead others to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Due to the increased number of Covid cases recently, we are recommending the use of masks)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

"Here I Am, Lord"

Schutte arr. Carter

*The Call to Worship

One: We delight to draw near to you, gracious God. We rejoice in the blessings you have given us.

All: We lift up our hearts and voices in praise. We humble ourselves before the God of all worlds.

One: We gather to remember God's commandments. We seek for ourselves the wisdom God imparts.

All: The wisdom of God is not like any other. It draws us away from the world's agenda.

One: God sends us into the world with new priorities. We are grounded in the Spirit that we might be discerning.

All: We are filled with the mind of Christ. We are already citizens of God's realm.

*Hymn

"Give Thanks"

#528

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son
and now let the weak say, "I am strong";
Let the poor say "I am rich";
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

May our voices rise like trumpets to greet you, holy God. May our ears be attuned to know your ways. May our hearts be steady, focused on you. Praise be to you, O God, whom we worship with awe and delight. Guide us, we pray, in this time of worship. Touch us at the points of our deepest need. Stir us amidst our entrenched complacency. Make us strong to loose the bonds of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Then your light will break forth like the dawn and we will experience your healing care. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

O God, you call out to us, saying, "Here I am." but we do not listen. You pour out on us spiritual gifts, but we do not discern them. You call us to build a more just society but we cling to our advantages. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to change. Help us to know and understand Jesus Christ that we might reflect the God of glory in our daily living. Create in us a generosity that reflects your own. Pour out your spirit on this congregation that we might understand and use it to build and repair and restore. Amen.

Words of Grace

*Hymn	"Give Thanks"	#528
--------------	----------------------	-------------

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son
and now let the weak say, "I am strong";
Let the poor say "I am rich";
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!**

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Special Music

"The Sound of Music"

Hammerstein

For the Child in Us

Pastor Lisa

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12 and Matthew 5:13-20

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message "Seek and Find. How then shall we live?"

*Hymn	"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"	#241 verses 1-3
--------------	------------------------------------	------------------------

**Holy Spirit, Truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine.
Voice of God, and inward Light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

**Holy Spirit, Love divine,
glow with in this heart of mine.
Kindle ev'ry high desire,
purify me with your fire.**

**Holy Spirit, Pow'r divine,
fill and nerve this will of mine.
Boldly may I always live,
bravely serve and gladly give.**

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.)

*Doxology

**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*)

Righteous God, accept our gifts of gratitude for the dawning awareness among us of your healing presence. You have satisfied our need in parched places and made our bones strong. Now we wish to offer to the world the amazing wonders we have experienced. Fill us with yearning for the Spirit of Christ that we might become salt and light and be empowered for good works to your honor and glory. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* 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.**

Benediction

Postlude

**The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God
in celebration of Grace Busch's 95th birthday
from her loving friend Marilyn W. Rutledge**

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Song leaders: **Kathy and Mike Scherr**
Soloist: **Catherine Messina**
Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

Announcements

02/05/23 Service

Liturgist: **David Leech**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

02/12/23 Service

Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

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

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

A Look Ahead

2/5/23	8:00 AM	Communion Sunday
2/5/23	11:00 AM	Annual meeting of the congregation
2/12/23	10:00 AM	Emmaus Homes speaker
2/12/23	10:00 AM	Council Member Installations
2/12/23	11:00 AM	Valentine Luncheon & Vintage Aprons
2/14/23	All day	Valentine's Day

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

Join us February 12 to hear Reverend Andrea Asselmeier speak about Emmaus Homes.

Andrea's title is "Manager of Spiritual Care". A big part of her role is to listen to clients as they share their spiritual needs and do the best to both provide spiritual care and find services in the community to meet those needs. At Emmaus, we serve people of all faiths. Andrea an ambassador of the Emmaus mission representing Emmaus at wider church events and helping pastors and churches think through ways they can be more welcoming and inclusive of people with disabilities.

1/16/2023 Council meeting bullet points:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Budget/By-Laws Café | 1/22/2023 after church |
| 2. Annual Congregational Meeting | 2/5/2023 11:00 |
| 3. Ruth Notch Reception | 2/19/2023 after church |
| 4. Luncheon and Entertainment | 2/12/2023 (men, women, kids invited) |

St. John's Fellowship Committee is hosting "**Valentine Luncheon & Vintage Aprons**" on **Sunday February 12** in Fellowship Hall following church service. Lunch and presentation on the history of aprons. All are welcome. Please complete your lunch order form(s) and return to church with payment **by Sunday, February 5**. Forms are available at church. Questions? Contact Lynn Potts lpotts14@gmail.com

Worship Services

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

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School & Worship

Worship is In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

St. John's United Church of Christ

15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017 (636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org