

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship April 7, 2024

Second 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

"Alleluia! Amen!"

Buckwalter

***The Call to Worship**

We have not seen Jesus, but we believe!

We believe he welcomes our questions and our doubts.

We have not seen Jesus, but we believe!

We believe he calls us to create accepting communities.

We have not seen Jesus, but we believe!

We believe he encourages us to act justly and to promote healing.

We have not seen Jesus, but we believe!

We believe; he inspires us to spread the life-giving Good News wherever we go. Amen.

*** Hymn**

"Gather Us In "

#284

Here in this place the 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.

Here we receive new life in the waters;
Here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is God present, and 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.

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

God of the resurrection, we gather this morning as a community of believers. We come with joy to greet one another and to tell again and again the amazing news: Christ is risen! You have given us new life in the name of your Son! May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming be a testimony to the power of your love to make us a new creation as a community of faith. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

Time for the Child in us All

Rev. Katie Jo Bielke

Special Music

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Arr. Tucker

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: John 20:19-31 & Acts 4:32-35

John 20:19-21

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 4:32-35

The Believers Share Their Possessions

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

*** Hymn**

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

#254

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

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

"Lord of the Dance"

Carter Arr. Krug

***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)*

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

LITURGY FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

Gathering at the Table

We Remember the Story

As it would happen, the world was not ready for the message of Jesus.

As he shared your vision and hope he challenged the way the world already operated,

Which led those with power to move against him.

He was arrested, tried, and executed.

But that was not the end of the story, or of the New Covenant.

You raised him, breaking the bonds of death, shattering the powers of the world.

We remember that on the night before his death Jesus shared the feast of liberation with his friends. At that table he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and passed it to them saying:

Take, eat, this is my body broken for you.

Then he took the cup of wine, blessed it and passed it to them saying:

Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant. Whenever you eat and drink, remember me.

We do remember. And as we remember we also remember the promise Jesus gave,
the promise of a Comforter, of the Spirit, to sustain us always.

Blessing the Meal

Pour out that Spirit upon and among us God.

May the Spirit move in this loaf and cup, in the sharing of this meal, transforming them, transforming us.

And when our gathering is ended,

Send us out with the fire of the Spirit in our souls, ready to live out the Covenant of Life and Love with all we meet, wherever we go. Amen

Sharing the Meal

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	<i>"There's a Spirit in the Air"</i>	#257 vs 1-4
<p>There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere: "Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."</p> <p>Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done: God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.</p>		<p>When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed, praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.</p> <p>Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right: God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.</p>

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
 Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **David Leech**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
 Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
 Songleaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Handbells: **Erin Armstrong, Norma Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Barb Nichols, Ruth Notch, Scott Nichols, Jim Pisoni**

Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **Lesotho** this week

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

"I want to thank everyone for including me in your thoughts and prayers. Surgery was very much a success and I am making great progress in my recovery, thanks to you all." **Richard Camp**

04/14/24 Service	04/21/24 Service	04/28/24 Service
Liturgist: Susie Pisoni Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellow & Lockup: Lynn Potts Children's Time: Rev. Brandon Special Music: Choir	Liturgist: Carolyn Golfin Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellow & Lockup: Lynn Potts Children's Time: Open Special Music: Flautist	Liturgist: Todd Armstrong Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellow & Lockup: Lynn Potts Children's Time: Open Special Music: Trumpet

... Looking Ahead

March/April

4/7	11:00 AM	Collecting for Loaves and Fishes
4/8		Senior Ministry Meeting
4/12	5:30 PM	Last Day to donate to Loaves and Fishes drive.
4/14		Wine Tasting
4/14		Global Ministries Pray for Puerto Rico
4/15	6:30 PM	Name Tag order forms due.
4/17	10:30 AM	Council Meeting
4/18	6:00 PM	Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Tour
4/19	8:00 AM	ECC Art Show
4/21	11:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
4/21		Earth Day Movie following services
4/22		Global Ministries Pray for Lebanon/Syria
4/23	6:30 PM	Earth Day
4/25	6:00 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
4/28	9:15 AM	Table Fellowship at 14156 Olive Blvd
4/28	11:00 AM	Loaves & Fishes
4/29		Mission Meeting
5/3	8:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for Korea
5/5	10:00 AM	Senior Ministry Speaker
5/5	11:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
		Communion Sunday
		Senior Ministry Meeting

5/5 GM Pray for Republic of Congo
5/6 1:30 PM Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
more at <https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>
Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

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

NAMETAGS

With the arrival of **Pastor Katie Jo** and her first service on March 10, we are reminding everyone to try and remember to **wear your nametag** at church! Orders due **April 14**.
What's Your Name?

Our member nurture team is excited to announce the designing of our new magnetic St. John's name tags! You don't want to miss the chance to order one.

Cost is \$15 each

***Please let us know if you need an alternate backing for those with pacemakers

Questions: Please see Lee Difani, or Jan Boehm

Name Displayed: _____

Alternate Backing: YES / NO (If you have a pace maker)