

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship June 25, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation

Gracious God in whose eyes every sparrow has value, and in whose love even the hairs of our heads are counted, lead us to the light, that we might proclaim your love from the housetops and put you first in our lives. May our discipleship reflect the witness of our teacher, Jesus Christ, that all nations may bow down before you and glorify your name. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude

"Day by Day"

Ahnfelt arr. Campbell

*Call to Worship

One: Call on the Lord! God inhabits our praise and hears our prayers.

All: You, O God, are good and forgiving, bighearted toward all those who ask for help.

One: We put ourselves in your hands with confidence and trust.

All: We depend on you from morning to night.

One: You know the number of hairs on our heads. You will not let us down.

All: No one is like you, God, and nothing compares to your greatness.

One: Your love is immense. You are slow to anger and quick to show kindness.

All: You never give up on us, Lord. Thank you for your infinite mercy!

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all worshipers. Be our guide as we worship, our voices as we sing, our hearts as we pray, our ears as we listen. Please clear our minds and hearts of the distractions of daily life, of thoughts about tomorrow's responsibilities, of anxiety about yesterday's mistakes and of dread over a sense of our unworthiness. Instead, fill us with only you. You are the reason we come together and we invite you to be the center of all that happens in this time of worship. Thank you for your presence among us. Amen

*Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

#86 vs 1&3

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not,
thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

New Member Covenant

A Litany for Reception of New Members

Pastor: We welcome Mary Bowers as she has decided to join with us as members of St. John's United Church of Christ. Mary Bowers, today we rejoice in your journey of faith that has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home in the past, and the spiritual mentors who have guided you on your way. We celebrate your presence today in this household of faith, where we are seekers and servants, growing in God's transforming love.

Our Covenant Together

Pastor: We ask you now to join in mutual covenant with the people of St. John's UCC, by affirming the following: Do you seek to grow in God's transforming love, as you follow in the Way of Jesus?

New Member: I do.

Pastor: Are you open to the movement of the Spirit in your life?

New Member: I am.

Pastor: Will you join with us as a church, as we seek to follow God's direction in our midst? Will you welcome and respect each person's freedom to interpret God's Truth, as God gives them each light and wisdom?

New Member: I will, with God's help.

Council President: Will you participate in the life and mission of this diverse and inclusive community of God's people, praying and working with us in ministry together? Will you share regularly with us in the worship of God and financial support of our ministries? Will you offer your talents to our work, as the Spirit leads us to serve the community and the world?

New Member: I will, with God's help.

Congregation: We welcome you with joy! As partners in the common life of this congregation, we pledge to you our friendship and prayers as we grow together in God's transforming love. We give thanks that you join us now, as fellow seeker and servant!

Blessing Prayer: (In Unison)

O God, we praise you for calling us to both seek and serve you, and for gathering us into this church. Together may we grow in your Spirit, building one another up in love and ministering to the world as followers of Jesus. Amen.

*** Passing of the Peace**

"Peace be with you!"

Special Music

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Gordon arr. Campbell

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
why should my heart be lonely,
and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled,"
his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth,
but one step I may see;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

Prayers of the People

Loving God, we pause now to remember all the times you have cared for us and all the blessings you give to us. We lift them up in praise now.

God of love, hear our prayer.

Mighty God, we pray for all those whose lives are governed by fear — of failure, pain, illness, loss and the fears we lay before you now.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we pray for all those who seek reconciliation — with a family member, a friend, a coworker and any we name before you now.

God of hope, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those ill in body, mind or spirit, especially those we name before you now.

God of compassion, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for all those living in anger — in naming those things that make us angry before you now, may the anger be released.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we lift all the concerns of our hearts and minds and ask you to renew, strengthen and restore us.

We pray in the name of your Son, our Lord.

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.)

*Doxology

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

* Prayer of Dedication

For all the great and wondrous things you have done for us, O God, we are grateful. You give us strength to go on when we are troubled and discouraged. You grant newness of life as we share in Christ's resurrection. We want to pass on the good news through our giving and by the way we live each day. Lead us and guide us in your steadfast love, that we might channel your gift to all we meet. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"	#614
I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere. I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.		
I'm gonna work so God can use me any time and anywhere. I'm gonna work so God can use me any time and anywhere.		
I'm gonna pray so God can use me any time and anywhere. I'm gonna pray so God can use me any time and anywhere.		
I'm gonna sing so God can use me any time and anywhere. I'm gonna sing so God can use me any time and anywhere.		

Benediction

Postlude

"New Heaven and Earth"

Immordino

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Mark Strothmann**
Song Leaders: **Mike & Kathy Scherr**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**
Violinist: **Chris Sasse**

Announcements

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

We pray for **Ava Bauman, Shirley Carmack, June Evers, Betty Gschwind, Bill Lubbin, Ellen Meier, Marilyn Norton, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.** Please let us know your prayer concerns

The updated directory has been sent out to all that are in the directory. Please review your information and if you see anything that needs to be changed please let the office know. If you would like to be added to the directory please call 636.532.0540 or email stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com.

07/02/23 Service

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

07/09/23 Service

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

A Look Ahead

6/25 9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
6/25 10 AM	Meet Bridgette Rymer the new ECC director
6/26 6 PM	Visioning Committee
6/27 6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
6/30 12 noon	Senior Ministry Guest Speaker Luncheon
7/2	Communion Sunday
7/4 All day	Independence Day (office closed)
7/8 9:00 AM	VBS main decorating party
7/10 1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
7/10 4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
7/10-14	9 AM VBS week
7/16 10 AM	VBS Sunday
7/17 6:30 PM	Council Meeting
7/24 6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
7/25 6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
7/30 9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes

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

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

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