

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship September 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. 'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.' The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand. Our church is following the current CDC guidelines.)*

*Passing the Peace

Prelude

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

arr. Shackley

*Call to Worship

One: Come, let us together worship God, who gives life.

All: Life that is really life!

One: Comes from the One we trust.

All: Life that is really life!

One: Comes from the Presence we call to.

All: Life that is really life!

One: Comes from the Foundation of goodness and sharing.

All: Life that is really life!

One: Comes to us now in this moment.

All: Let us take hold of Life that is really Life!

*Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)

God, we have come, and we know that you are with us. We want to bring you worship that is beautiful and lovely, worship that brings you joy and glory. Lead us as we worship. Our prayer is that every person will know and experience you, and they will know with certainty that you love them. Be real to us today. Our faith often wavers. Today we ask boldly that you would show us yourself, so there will be no doubt that we have been in your holy presence. Amen.

*Hymn

"Surely the Presence of the Lord"

#263

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

(Repeat)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in Us All

Helen Stortz

Scriptures:

1 Timothy 6:6-19 and Luke 16:19-31

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

All: Thanks be to God.

The Message

*** Hymn:**

"How Firm a Foundation"

#618 verses 1, 2, 5

**"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you God has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"**

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 [online](#), by text at 833-502-0657, or by mail. We are grateful for your support.

***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)**

What a joy to have something to give! Thank you, God, for granting us choices in the use of all you have placed on earth for our use. We have chosen a portion of what we have to dedicate for the ministry of the church in our community and in outreach throughout the world. Make us aware of the needy at our doors as well as lost ones everywhere who long for the bread of life. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn:

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

#560

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

[Refrain:]

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

arr. Raney

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**
Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Phyllis / Rosemarie**

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Announcements

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

BEHOLD! With your assistance, we together can help our **Neighbors in Need** Please give generously on **October 2**. Contributions to Neighbors in Need may be made online at any time

10/02/22 Service
Liturgist: **Rev. Rich Brandon**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Laura Ayers**

10/09/22 Service
Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Carol Tindira**

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **Puerto Rico** this week

Well wishes and Starbucks gift cards were sent to our **college students** this week.
Please include these young people in your **prayers**.
May they be strengthened and encouraged as they go through their semester.

Saint Louis Metro **CROP Hunger Walk** registration is open
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/saintlouismo>

I am looking for **volunteers** to team teach Sunday School for students (8-12) on a rotating basis. The schedule is flexible. Please contact Kathy Sellenriek at 314-630-6174. kathysellenriek@gmail.com

Our Mission Ministry Team has received from the UCC Global Missions Board the information on our St. John's **sponsored child, Kayla**, who is a recently placed resident of the Pringle Home for Girls in Jamaica. You can get involved by

- **Donating \$30 for a month of sponsorship (put "Kayla" in the memo)**
- **Writing letters and cards and dropping them in the plate or office**
- **In the future we will be creating a care package to send to Kayla..**

September	Festival of Sharing Collection
9/25/22 12:00 PM	Habitat Home Dedication
9/27/22 6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
9/30/22	Wine Tasting (waitlisted)
10/2/22 10 AM	Neighbors in Need
10/2/22	World Communion Sunday
10/2/22 11 AM	"Tax-Advantaged Giving" Speaker
10/2/22 4:30 PM	Crop Hunger Walk.
10/9/22	Totenfest Names Due
10/16/22	Presentation by Nicholas Frei.
10/23/22	Stemme Farm Fish Fry
10/25/22	Bunko Women's Fellowship
10/30/22	Loaves & Fishes
10/30/22	Totenfest
10/30/22	Trunk or Treat after service.
10/31/22	Halloween
11/1/22	All saints day.

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

St. John's United Church of Christ
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www.stjohnsucchesterfield.org

Worship Services

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

Behold!

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you...

James 5:4

Mini Scripture study (D):

Romans 12 (NRSV) and/or James 5:4 (NRSV)

Start by reading above passage(s), before you begin with study questions.

Take a moment to pray the “Prayer of Illumination” * – (repeat 3X)

Discussion questions:

- What are issues affecting workers in our own community? Have we heard from, are we in relationship with, or walked along side directly impacted persons?
- What people resources/assets do we have in our congregation? Directly impacted person? Stockholders? Elected Officials? Media? Social Media influencers? Investors? Corporate Board Members? How can we best educate and engage them to work towards a just, equitable, sustainable global economy rooted in Biblical debt jubilee?

Additional material to better integrate this lesson.

a. Wage Theft/fraud – Unfortunately it is quite common for employers to steal wages from workers, that is to fail to pay employees all they earn. Up to two-thirds of workers in low-wage industries are victims of wage theft each week. Failure to pay for all hours worked or for overtime are just some examples of the ways employers steal wages. .

b. Work to end wage theft in your community. Learn more.

Low-wage workers are high-value people, created in the image of God. All jobs must provide fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. Workers must be able to support themselves and their families and live with dignity the life of wholeness that God intends for all. God's reign does not stop at the door to the workplace but extends to all aspects of life including our work lives. View and discuss Asset Based Community Development Overview

Action Item:

- What is God calling you and your faith community to do?
- What are your goals and timeline for completion?

Further Reading/Discussion:

- Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility Theory of Change
- Poor People's Campaign Jubilee Platform

*Prayer of Illumination

Creator God,

We welcome you in this space

May your liberating spirit

Saturate and transform this physical/virtual space and enliven our Covenant

Open our hearts and minds to receive, reflect, and redress

Engage our senses

Engage our bodies

Engage our souls

We are yours.

Transform us together now and always

In community we prayer,

Amen.

With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.

Please donate today!

For more resources and to share and learn best practices for economic justice/change, join the UCC Economic Justice Champions, here.

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!

