

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship July 2, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

A Prayer for General Synod

God of small sanctuaries and large halls, we listen and look for your presence immediately surrounding us, energizing us to serve the world outside. And today we know that many of our neighbors and friends are gathering in Indianapolis for General Synod as they celebrate faith, reflect on your calling, seek justice and kindness, and inhale the invigorating breath of the Spirit. We pray for their wisdom, Holy One. May your wisdom carry them from one moment to the next as they search for the depths of your love. We pray for their endurance, Loving Spirit. Throughout the long days of Synod, may they find rest and renewal, moments of hopeful silence and joyous laughter. We pray for their strength, Divine Redeemer. May your courage permeate their hearts as they speak and vote, and may your Holy Curiosity open their souls to new stories. May each of us be willing to open our souls to new words, new sounds, new stories, and new songs. Your Kin-dom can be found from the conversation between two people drinking coffee to the most distant of galaxies across the universe. May we see how to serve the Church and your children within the walls of our individual sanctuaries to the streets surrounding us to the farthest spaces in our world. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Raney

*Call to Worship

ONE: Early in the morning, our thoughts turn toward God.
We have been led to this mountaintop of worship.

ALL: **We come, trusting in God's steadfast love.**
We gather, seeking the way of salvation and peace.

ONE: God has made an everlasting covenant with us.
Let us proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

ALL: **Sometimes we think God has forgotten us.**
Often we do not understand what God expects of us.

ONE: God deals bountifully with us in much that we take for granted.
God shows us the value of life and helps us celebrate it.

ALL: **We bring our sorrow and pain to this healing time.**
May God provide what we need to grow in Christ.

*Hymn

"God, We Present Ourselves"

(tune #527)

God, we present ourselves
this day to you.
Take all our sins away;
help us be true.
As you bring life anew,
grant grace to see us through.
Each passing hour, grant us your power.

We welcome those you send,
prophet and friend.
Pray, help us minister,
not just pretend.
May we put others first,
seeking to quench their thirst
With water pure, life to ensure.

***Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)**

Creator God, we marvel at the amazing variety of life on this planet. All that we see with our eyes is but a small hint of all that is revealed through microscopes and telescopes—other worlds of form and beauty so amazing beyond any telling. Yet our spiritual ancestors have known you not only as Creator of all things, but as one who knows and loves each one of us. Help us to know you here, today. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Special Music

"This is My Song"

Sibelius arr, Lanier

Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

***Hymn**

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

#720 verse 1

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with servanthood
from sea to shining sea.

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 (*In Unison*)**

Almighty God, thank you for the work we are given to do. May we find gladness in all its toil and difficulty, its pleasure and success and even in its failure and sorrow. We would look always away from ourselves, and behold the glory and the needs of the world that we may have the will and the strength to bring the gift of gladness to others; that with them we stand to bear the burdens and heat of the day and offer you the praise of work well done. Amen.

AT TABLE WITH CHRIST

Invitation to the Table

One: Come to the table

All: **Feast and rejoice.**

One: Come for the meal.

All: **Receive that you may give.**

Communion Prayer

One: The Holy One is here.

All: With us and before us.

One: Let us open our spirits to God.

All: We come open and ready.

One: Give thanks to God.

All: We give our thanks and praise!

One: O God, our mother and father, bread baker and wine maker, we give you thanks and praise. You worked the world into being, installed all creation with life, and shaped us as your people. With all creation we sing your praises.

***Hymn**

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts!"

#51

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heav'n and earth are full of thee!

Heav'n and earth are praising thee, O God most high!

One: In Jesus Christ, the bread of life and the true vine, you feed us with the Word, and nourish us from the stalk. At table with a circle of his friends, Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them, saying:

All: "Take. Eat. This is my body given for you. Remember me each time you do this."

One: After supper he took a cup, gave God thanks for the fruit of the vine, and shared it with his friends saying:

All: "Take. Drink. This is God's promise, poured out for you. Remember me each time you drink it."

One: Ever-Present God, help us recognize the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. Open our eyes. Warm our hearts. Send your Spirit in blessing.

All: Yours is the wheat and yours the grape, yours is the leaven and the love. Send your blessing on this bread; send your grace upon this cup. This is the feast your heart rehearsed. Drinking this well, we do not thirst.

One: O God of goodness, through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, let all creation give you glory on this day and forevermore.

All: Amen.

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.

Sharing of Bread and Cup

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (*In Unison*)

Holy one, you gave us this day our daily bread and nourished us with Christ's presence: we thank you. Through the one loaf and cup, you have made us one with you and one another: we thank you. By your love and care, feed the world with this bread; bring it joy with this wine. Make it leaven and salt in us, a community of faith strengthened by your meal. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#422

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

[Refrain:]

Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one.
At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Immanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Ward arr. Heffler

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
Song Leaders: **Mike & Kathy Scherr**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

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Announcements

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

We pray for **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

07/09/23 Service

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**

Usher Team: **Phil Difani**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

07/16/23 Service

Liturgist: **Susie Pisoni**

Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

A Look Ahead

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 (via 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
7/30	11:00 AM	Men's Group Brainstorming Session

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

15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccconlive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

Please give us a good review on Facebook

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