

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship July 9, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Majestic God, shine your light upon us with your love and mercy. Shine upon us, Lord, with the brightness of your grace. As we prepare to worship, we pray that you will reveal to us your ways so that we may fully and faithfully serve you as disciples and believers. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

"Festival Processional for Trumpet & Organ"

Wetzler

*Call to Worship

One: Come to Christ, all who are weary. Gather together, all who carry heavy burdens.

All: Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.

One: Bless God, who is revealed more clearly to infants than to those considered intelligent and wise.

All: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, who rescues us from sin and death.

One: Seek the renewal of your spirit; delight in God's Law in your inmost selves.

All: Praise God for all who live in awe, for all who seek to do God's will.

*Opening Prayer

All: In the stillness of the morning, in the calm of the night, in the hush and the pulse of all that surrounds us, we call on you, O God. We call on you knowing that you have already met us wherever we are. We call on you knowing that you will carry us, we who carry so much.

One: And so we take this moment to pause and to praise you; leaning back into your open arms, inclining our ears to hear your voice as it moves amongst us, opening our eyes to behold your grace.

(Pause)

All: You are present to us, O God. Help us to be present to you, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

[Refrain]

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

[Refrain]

If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus,
and say "He died for all!"

[Refrain]

Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge
he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

[Refrain]

Confession

One: Friends in Christ: I invite you to conjure your image of Jesus. Can you see him?

**All: The humble man who healed. The one who gave everything so freely.
The one who cared and noticed and never turned his back.**

One: Good people, we, you and I, were created by God and in that very same image. We were created to follow that example: to be humble, to offer healing, to give abundantly, to care, to notice, to pay attention to the need that surrounds us.

All: At times, we follow Jesus. And, at times, we do not.

One: In the stillness of this time, God invites us to consider the ways in which we do – and do not – follow Jesus' example. And, God invites us to let God's grace into our lives so that we can more closely follow Jesus' lead, cleaning out everything within us that would get in God's way. Let us do just that in these quiet moments.

(Pause)

Assurance of Pardon

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Dedication for VBS Week

Pastor: VBS begins this week with the theme of Hero Hotline. Some amazing volunteers will be providing leadership. Will all the volunteers please come forward? You who have volunteered this week will lead the children, the heroes, who will attend VBS this week. You have committed to leading Heroes to a deeper relationship with God through Jesus by guiding them to work together, and to help others. As leaders, you must do the same, and together commit to join God in helping others.

Leaders: We ask you to pray for us as we seek God's help. We ask you to pray for all those whose lives will be impacted by our efforts.

Pastor: We ask you to pray for all the children and their parents.

**Leaders: God who has called us, teach us to follow Jesus as we learn to answer your call!
Help us share your love to all of our neighbors when they need help. Give us strength, courage and patience to work together and with the children this week.**

Pastor: God help these volunteers and all of us to learn to hear your voice and to discern the things you seek to tell us.

Leaders: God, thank you for the grace you show us and help us show that grace to others.

ALL: We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct your steps. We pray that Heroes who attend VBS sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and will be endowed with gifts that God provides.

Leaders: May God guide us during these days and use us to lead the way for our Heroes.

ALL: Gracious God, thank you for these people you have called to your service. Give each leader a kind and compassionate heart for each child and youth. Fill their hearts with love. Help them be a blessing to all who take part in our Hero Hotline VBS program.

Special Music

"Where'er You Walk"

Handel

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

*Hymn	<i>"You Have Blessed Us"</i>	tune # 601
You have blessed us, God, on life's journey long, Giving guidance on our way. We would worship you with our loyalty, Joyous gladness to display. [Refrain] We will praise you in our words and deeds, Giving thanks that you reveal To the least of us the love you have for all, And the calming words that heal.		Come to me, Christ said, all you weary ones, Come, and be my honored guest. Lay your burdens down, and refreshment find, For I want to give you rest. [Refrain] Take my yoke, Christ said, and learn from me, Find my yoke and burden light, And, with gentleness and humility, In God's gracious will unite. [Refrain]

Pastorial 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 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*)

O God, you invite us to share the load. Through our giving, we see that your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Use them, with us, to your service. Multiply them, through us, for your use. Strengthen them, in us, to meet the needs of this weary world, until the day comes when every need is met. Through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

#190

**Tell me the stories of Jesus
I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me
if he were here:
scenes by the wayside,
tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus,
tell them to me.**

**First let me hear how the children
stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing
resting on me;
words full of kindness,
deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight
of Jesus' face.**

**Into the city I'd follow
the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree
high in my hand;
one of his heralds,
yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas,
"Jesus is King!"**

Benediction

Postlude

"Intrada"

Wetzler

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Trumpet: **Robert Souza**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

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Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **South Africa** this week

Betty Gschwind was taken into God's care and keeping **Sunday, July 2, 2022.**

We ask that God's presence will provide strength in this time of grief.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

As information becomes available about services we will pass it along.

We pray for **Shirley Carmack, June Evers, Betty Jo Kieffer, Bill Lubbin, Ellen Meier, Marilyn Norton, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns

07/16/23 Service

Liturgist: **Susie Pisoni**

Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Rosemarie Spray**

07/23/23 Service

Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**

Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Roccio**

A Look Ahead

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
8/6		Communion Sunday
8/6	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry meeting in library
8/7	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
8/9	9:45 AM	Art Museum Tour & Lunch
8/13	10 am	Last Summer Sunday Funday

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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