

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship January 21, 2024

Third Sunday after Epiphany

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

In the daylight, in the darkness; in the clamor, in the silence; in the thinking, in the feeling; in the head-knowledge and the heart-wisdom; in ages past and time present, you have spoken to your people, O Lord. Even now, in this time, in this place, we say: "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." Amen

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Peace be with you in 2024

And also with you

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

***The Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 148)**

Listen to the silence. . Will your name be called?

***Opening Prayer**

One: Something made the hairs stand up on our necks. Was it you, O God?

All: Was it you that we saw blowing over the water?

One: Was it you that we heard in those steps?

All: Was it you that we felt in the beating of our own hearts?

One: Was it you that called our names?

All: Come, O God. Come to search us. Come to know us again.

One: We were knit in your womb. We have tried to count your works.

All: Come, O God, so that we can hear you calling our names. Here and now.

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send? [Chorus]

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? [Chorus]

Prayer of Confession

One: Holy One, you have called us by name. You will not let us lounge in bed. You wake us up in the middle of the night to remember...

(A time of silence to remember God's works.)

One: You will not let us hide under the tree. You summon us from the shade to be changed
(Silence to pray for those things that need to be changed.)

One: You will not let us bury our secrets within the earth. You unearth our fears and speak them aloud

(Silence to name your fears.)

All: **Forgive us, O God, when we cannot speak. Reveal the words we need most. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance *(inspired by Psalm 139)*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Special Music

Time for the Child in us All

Helen Stortz

Message

*** Hymn**

"Jesus, I Have Promised"

#612 verses 1, 2, 4

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

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 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 for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** *(In Unison)*

O God, you offer us wonderful gifts. May our offerings make way for change that doesn't yet exist. May we give it a name. May we move through our fears. May we dare to call this hope wonderful, in the hope of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn:**

"You Have Called Me"

#455 verses 1 and 2

**You have called me from my hiding place and given me a name;
from this moment on my life can never be the same.
I have seen the beckoning vision, though, I wanted to remain,
here I am, send me, here I am.**

Refrain:

**"Who will go into the darkness where my people live in fear?
Who will speak of truth and charity so all of them can hear?
If you go where I am sending you, I always will be near.
Here I am, go for me, here I am."**

**You have called me from my wilderness and given me a way.
The many paths I've traveled have but brought me to the day.
And the journey that is calling me no longer will delay.
Here I am, send me, here I am. Refrain**

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Kathy Scherr**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**
Song leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**

Announcements

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

01/28/24 Service Liturgist: Warren Stemme Usher Team: John Bartelt Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellow & Lockup: Helen Stortz Special Music: Handbells	2/4/24 Service Liturgist: Lynn Potts Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellow & Lockup: Helen Stortz Special Music: Flautist
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We pray for
Barb Ackerman, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Sue Kinnaman, Margie Paul,
Barbara Tretter, Gloria Vaclavik and Rick Wagner.
Please let us know your prayer concerns

... Looking Ahead January ❄️

1/14/24	11:00 AM	Unhanging of the Greens & Lunch
1/15/24	12:00 AM	Martin Luther King Holiday (<i>office closed</i>)
1/15/24	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
1/21/24	11:00 AM	Annual Budget Meeting
1/22/24	12:00 AM	ECC Registration Opens
1/23/24	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
1/25/24	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship at Spiro's.
1/26/24	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
1/28/24	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
1/28/24	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting

more at <https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

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

... Looking Ahead February ❤️

Lydias House Drive

2/4	10:00 AM	Pastor Lisa's Last Service
2/4	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
2/4	10:00 AM	Rev Shari 40th Ordination Anniversary
2/4	11:00 AM	Celebration Lunch in Fellowship Hall (<i>library</i>)
2/4	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
2/4		Global Ministries Pray for Fiji
2/5	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
2/8	9:25 AM	Volunteer at Lydia's House
2/9	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
2/11		Global Ministries Pray for Sierra Leone
2/11	11:00 AM	Cemetery Board Meeting
2/12	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
2/14	7 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
2/18	10:00 AM	1 st Sunday of Lent
2/18		Global Ministries Pray for India
2/19	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
2/19		Presidents' Day (<i>office/ecc closed</i>)
2/20	12:00 PM	ECC early dismissal
2/23	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
2/25	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
2/25	10:00 AM	2 nd Sunday of Lent
2/25		Global Ministries Pray for Ecuador
2/25	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
2/27	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
2/29	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at TBD

... Looking Ahead March



3/3	10:00 AM	3rd Sunday of Lent
3/3		Communion Sunday
3/3		Global Ministries Pray for Egypt
3/3	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
3/4	9:00 AM	Pastor Katie Jo's first day in the office
3/6 - 7/24		ECC Parent Conferences
3/8	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
3/9	6:30 PM	Bingo, doors open at 6:30
3/10	10:00 AM	Pastor Katie Jo's first Service
3/10	10:00 AM	4th Sunday of Lent
3/10		Global Ministries Pray for Japan
3/11	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
3/17	10:00 AM	5th Sunday of Lent
3/17		Global Ministries Pray for Myanmar
3/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
3/18 to 22		ECC Spring Break
3/22		Biweekly Newsletter
3/24	10:00 AM	6th Sunday of Lent
3/24		Global Ministries Pray for Cuba
3/26	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
3/28	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at TBD
3/28		Maundy Thursday
3/29		ECC No School
3/29		Good Friday
3/30		Holy Saturday
3/31	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
3/31	10:00 AM	Easter
3/31		Global Ministries Pray for Greece
3/31	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting

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