

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation

Loving God, touch our lives with the love that creates disciples that we may learn to love one another. Teach us new attitudes so we will welcome the new heaven and new earth you have promised and work together to live as your people. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude

"Siyahamba - I'm Gonna Sing"

Waldrop

*Call to Worship

One: Come to praise God, all you faithful people!
Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.

All: **Praise to God, who created all the earth.
Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.**

One: Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God.
God created them and established for each a place.

All: **God has a place for us in this world;
We have come that God may instruct and equip us.**

One: Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God.
Let all the people of the earth do so as well.

All: **God provides abundantly for our needs.
God makes one family of all who dwell on earth.**

*Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)

We praise you, O God, and celebrate your presence with us. Your glory fills all heaven and earth, all time and space. Your gifts surround us and dwell within us. We are your children. Come to wipe away our tears and comfort us in our distress. Come to heal our divisions and overcome our prejudices. Come, that we might be loved into discipleship. Amen.

*Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#56 verses 1, 2, 5

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise

For thy church that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
one pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

We admit, holy God, that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to accept people who are different from us, but we are not eager to associate with them. You command us to love one another but some people are not lovable. O God, melt our defenses so we can accept your love and let it flow through us. Grant us courage to embrace newness. Amen.

Words of Assurance

*Passing of the Peace

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in Us All

Danny Mueller

Scriptures:

Acts 11:1-18 and Revelation 21:1-6

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

"Heaven and Earth"

Tune #2

Heaven and earth, in glorious newness,

Praise you, God of faithfulness.

As your love is flowing through us,

We our need for you confess.

Holy Spirit, hear our longing

For the new world you create,

Where all people know belonging

And there is no place for hate.

Grant us vision and compassion

As you wipe away our tears.

Out of grieving you will fashion

Glorious newness through the years.

You send springs of living water;

On your word we can depend.

You are Alpha and Omega,

Our beginning and our end.

Young and old together singing

Praises to your holy name,

Set the highest heavens ringing

With your jubilant acclaim.

All creation is your dwelling;

Sun and moon and stars rejoice.

Creatures great and small are telling

Of the one who gave them voice.

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

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** (tune: "All Creatures of Our God and King." #22)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
O praise God O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

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

Thank you, gracious God, for making your home with us and claiming us as your own people. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts toward the new world you are creating among us – a world where peace emerges from mutual respect and honest encounters. May our love be reflected in our attitudes and actions when we are together and when we are scattered. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn:** "Every Morning is Easter Morning"

Refrain:

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning
from now on!**

**Ev'ry day's resurrection day,
the past is over and gone!**

**Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance!
Hello Lord, Hello sun!
I am one of the Easter People!
My new life has begun!
Refrain**

**Daily news is so bad it seems the
Good News seldom gets heard.
Get it straight from the Easter People:
God's in charge! Spread the word!
Refrain**

**Yesterday I was bored and lonely;
but today look and see!
I belong to the Easter People!
Life's exciting to me!**

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning
from now on!**

**Ev'ry day's resurrection day,
the past is over and gone!**

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning
from now on!**

Benediction

Postlude

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Elvey arr. Tornquist

Preaching: **Reverend Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Sara Pisoni**
Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Piano: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**
Handbells: **Barb Nichols, Erin Armstrong, Debbie Spitzer, Pastor Lisa Hart,
Norma Armstrong, Lee Difani, Ruth Notch, Scott Nichols**

Announcements

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

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

Help us celebrate all of the **graduations & accomplishments** of our **students.**
Send in your information before 5/27.

Looking Ahead

May		Registration opens for VBS & volunteers
May		Unleashing Potential Drive
5/21/22	9:00 AM	Spring Grounds Cleanup please sign up
5/24/22	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
5/27/22		Graduation Information Due to office
5/30/22		Memorial Day Office Closed
6/5/22		Strengthen the Church offering
6/5/22		VBS Painting Party
6/7/22	5:00 PM	Summer Concert Series Volunteering
6/12/22	11:00 AM	Who is God calling St. John's to be
6/14/22	5:00 PM	Summer Concert Series Volunteering
6/19/22		Father's Day

Please check your **News Notes** specific information around **upcoming activities.**

2022 **VBS** is **July 11-15 Volunteer** forms are available in the Narthex and on our website.
You may also call 636-532-0540 or email stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com

Love Live Music, Food and Fellowship?

St. John's will be a **sponsor** for the Chesterfield Regional Chamber **concerts this summer!** We agreed to provide at least **5 volunteers** for their **four June concerts on Tuesday evenings.** We will be "checking in" cars as they enter the parking lot at Faust Park. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the concert! Get a group together to volunteer and then go to the concert! Or, come to just volunteer! **Sign up** for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 Tuesdays! Car check-in **time frame is 5:00-7:00**, concerts start at 7:00. For more information on the concerts go to chesterfieldmochamber.com. Please **contact Lynn Potts** for more details and to sign up. Thank you! (lpotts14@gmail.com)

5/22/22 Service

Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**

5/29/22 Service

Liturgist: **Monica Hart**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**

St. John's United Church of Christ
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Worship Services

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