

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringling of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"All Creatures of Our God & King"

arr. Althouse

***The Call to Worship**

Come to the vineyard of God.

We seek Christ, the vine of great love.

Drink from the waters of life.

We live in the light of God's grace.

Come to the vineyard of God.

All are welcome here.

*** Hymn**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#56 vs 1-2,4-5

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 the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
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.

***Gathering Prayer** *(In Unison)*

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Katie Jo

Special Music

"I'll Walk with God"

Brodsky

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: 1 John 4:7-21 & John 15:1-8

1 John 4:7-21

God Is Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8

Jesus the True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

*** Hymn*****"Take Time to Be Holy"*****#572**

Take time to be holy,
speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always,
and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children,
help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing
God's blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy,
the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret
with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus,
like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct
his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy,
let him be thy guide,
and run not before him,
whatever betide;
in joy or in sorrow,
still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus,
still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy,
be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive
beneath his control;
thus led by his spirit
to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted
for service above.

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.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**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.)

Offertory***"Zion's Walls"*****Copland*****Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

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

We give to tell the world your good news in Christ. As you have loved us, we give ourselves in love for all your people. May we glorify you through our discipleship. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"To God Be the Glory"

#72

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [Refrain]

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Trumpet: **Robert Souza**
Song leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Announcements

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

We pray for **Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina, Kathy Scherr, Barbara Tretter and Gloria Vaclavik** Please let us know your prayer concerns

05/05/24 Service

Liturgist: **Jane Lindberg**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**

05/12/24 Service

Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Special Music: **piano duet**

05/19/24 Service

Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Special Music: **Flute**

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and encouragement during this past year. **June Evers** has reached this post-transplant milestone with great results and can be moved from the regular prayers list to a prayer of thanksgiving!

Thanks be to God for his good works, healing and love. **Donna Switzer**



ECC Spring Fundraiser
going on Now until April 29th
Order using the QRCode to the right >>>
or physical order forms will be available during
fellowship/coffee hour



Graduation Celebration! Help us celebrate all of the graduations & accomplishments of our students. If someone in your family graduated this year from **high school, college, trade school, graduate school, or any accomplishment** you want to brag about—send us a **paragraph** with where they are graduating from, what their post-graduation plans are, and a short list of accomplishments they achieved during the education (if you like). Send the information to the church office at stjohnsucconlive@gmail.com by **May 1st**.

Council Meeting Bullet Points:

Our Stained-Glass windows need help. Please attend one of the small-group meeting we are planning. These windows have not had any maintenance since the 1960's when they were installed and we would like to let you see the issues with the wood framing and support for the windows (the glass itself is still beautiful).

Monday (April 29) come and meet with representatives from the Missouri Department of Conservation to discuss ways to enhance the experience of Container Gardening.

Rally Day is on the calendar for September 8th. It is a joyous day and we are looking for some members to help with different parts of it.

If you have any plastic Easter Eggs left over feel free to bring them by and donate them to the Church for next year's Easter egg hunt.

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

... Looking Ahead

4/28	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
4/29	11:00 AM	Container Gardening Class
5/3	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (<i>subscribe</i>)
5/3	5 PM	Wine Tasting (<i>RSVP to Lynn Potts date changed</i>)
5/5	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
5/5	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
5/5		Global Ministries Pray for Republic of Congo
5/6	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
5/4		20th Annual Tab Top Pandemonium
5/5	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
5/5	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
5/5		Global Ministries Pray for Republic of Congo
5/6	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
5/9		Ascension Day
5/9 & 10		ECC Mother's Day Parties
5/12		Global Ministries Pray for Palestine
5/13	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
5/14,15,15		ECC Last Day
5/17	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (<i>subscribe</i>)
5/19	10:00 AM	Celebrate the Graduates
5/19		GM Pray for Venezuela
5/20	6:30 PM	Council Meeting

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

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

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