

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship

October 1, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

Fanfare from "Water Music" Suite

Handel

*Call to Worship

One: We gather as God's people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.

All: Let us love each other as God loves us beautifully, and wonderfully made in God's image.

One: We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God.

All: Let us open our hearts to God's spirit of love and unity.

One: We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today.

All: Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God's creation.

* Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

Lord, open our eyes to see the beauty in each person we meet. Help us freely share your love with all your creation. We give thanks for beautifying your creation and for making a diverse world. Help us to be kind, compassionate, and loving to all. We thank you, O Lord, for allowing us to grow in our welcome and learn about other cultures as we share your amazing grace and love with each other and the world. Amen!

Let's Sing unto the Lord

1 Let's sing un - to the Lord a hymn of glad re - joic-ing.
 2 Let's sing un - to the Lord a hymn of ad - o - ra - tion,
 Let's sing a hymn of love, at the new day's fresh be - gin-ning,
 which shows our love and faith and the hope of all cre - a - tion.
 God made the sky a - bove, the stars, the sun, the o - ceans;
 Through all that has been made, the Lord is praised for great-ness,
 and God saw it was good, for those works were filled with beau-ty.
 and so we sing to God, who be - stows such love - ly bless-ings.
Refrain / Estribillo
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Let's sing un - to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confesion (*In Unison*)

O God, you ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretence and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. It is hard to see ourselves as exploiters when we pursue advantages for our families. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like victims. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for us. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor: Good friends: God is at work in you! God is alive in us! And our sins are forgiven, through Christ, our Savior.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13

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

All: Thanks be to God.**Message**

*Hymn	"He Is Lord"	#117 (sing twice thru)
He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.		He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Prayers of the People

One: Holy One, we ask that you continue to mold us into your likeness. We ask that your Holy Spirit move us into being kind, compassionate, and generous as we live out our faith daily. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: Holy One, we pray for those who are hurting, on the margins, excluded, lonely, and dealing with rejection and unacceptance by society. May each person know you love them and accept and value them as your precious creations. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: Holy One, we lift all the beautiful diversity of your people in prayer that they may all know your presence, grace, and infinite love for them. Shower them with your blessings, and may the church become a safe place for all your people to gather. Help us, Oh God, to strive for unity and harmony and a more just world. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: Holy One, we pray for all those in our community who are caregivers, first responders, and those who advocate for the well-being of your people. We thank all who care for us and keep us safe each day. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: Holy One, we lift in prayer our nation, our leaders, our President, and Vice-President, and national leaders around the world. Open their hearts to the suffering of your people and give them the wisdom to lead with compassion and empathy for the least of them. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: Holy One, we lift in prayer all ecumenical partners and organizations working in our communities to achieve justice for all. May your Spirit continue to lead them in ways that honor you, oh God, as they seek to work together in unity and with the goals of a unified voice of collaboration for the common good of all your beloved people. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

One: Holy one, we ask that you help us to become the beloved community you want us to be. We ask your forgiveness when we neglect our calling to be your hands, heart, and body. May our actions and deeds honor and glorify You. Into your hands, Holy One, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name above all, Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.)

***Prayer of Dedication and in preparation for Communion**

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.**

CELEBRATION OF WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

ONE: Let us give thanks for the churches that, together, form our Lord's whole church.

ALL: There is one Body and one Spirit, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.

ONE: We are grateful, O God, for the Roman Catholic church,

ALL: gloriously renewed in our century, open to unity in witness and service.

ONE: We praise you for the churches of Eastern Orthodoxy:

ALL: for the mystic beauty of their liturgies, their vivid sense of the Risen Lord, their profound communal experience.

ONE: We thank you for the churches named after your servant, Martin Luther:

ALL: for their witness to the primacy of your Word and of your gift of faith, by which alone we are justified.

ONE: We glorify you for the churches of the Reformed/Presbyterian family:

ALL: for their stress on your sovereignty and our responsibility, and for their devotion to liberty within order.

ONE: We thank you for the Anglican church:

ALL: for her inclusiveness, her flexibility, her unfaltering commitment to reconciliation and reunion.

ONE: We praise you for churches of the Baptist tradition:

ALL: for their insistence on the freedom of your Spirit and on our need to be reborn by that Spirit.

ONE: We are grateful, O God, for the churches of Methodism:

ALL: for their testimony on behalf of a disciplined Christian life and for their courageous pursuit of social justice.

ONE: We praise you for your people known as Friends:

ALL: for the simple dignity of their meetings, their respect for the Inner Light, their commitment to nonviolence.

ONE: We praise you for the churches of Pentecostalism:

ALL: for their emphasis on the gifts of the Spirit.

ONE: We thank you for the United Church of Christ

ALL: for their message of inclusivity and the reminder that God is still speaking.

ONE: We thank you for independent churches and those of smaller denomination,

ALL: who are on fire to share the faith.

ONE: We thank you for the young churches of Africa, Asia and the Pacific Basin:

ALL: for their evangelistic vigor, their service to the poor, their witness on behalf of human liberation.

ONE: We glorify you for the pioneers of the Ecumenical Movement fostering cooperation and reunion in the place of strangeness and frequent, unseemly rivalry.

ALL: O God, whose divine Son prayed that we might all be one, accept our thanksgiving for the spiritual riches inherent in the diversity of his churches, but remind us even more of the reality of his one ecumenical church, for "there is one Body and one Spirit, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism." Amen.

Invitation

*Hymn

"I Come with Joy"

#420 verses 1, 2, 3

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you

All: And also with you!

One: Lift your hearts

All: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

Words of Institution

*Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Gracious God, we thank you for uniting us by this meal with your people around the world. May it fill us all with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this bread and cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

#687 verses 1, 3, 4

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north:
all loving hearts are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Benediction

Postlude

Canzon Per Sonare #2

G. Gabrieli

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
 Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**
 Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Brass Quartet: **Chris Becker, Trumpet; Drew Davis, Trumpet; Sydney Reynolds, Horn; Josh Adams, Trombone**
 Songleaders: **Mike & Kathy Scherr**

Announcements

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

We pray for **Ava Baumann, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Bill Lubbin, Jeannie Rucker, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.**
 Please let us know your prayer concerns



In 2023, the Neighbors in Need “**BEHOLD!**” theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

Please use pew envelopes to give generously today.

A Look Ahead

	<i>featured</i>	Sharefest Drive MO Youth Personal Care
10/1	10:00 AM	World Communion Sunday
10/1	10:00 AM	Neighbors in Need Offering
10/1	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>in library</i>)
10/1		Crop Walk, (<i>sign up today</i>)
10/2	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (<i>zoom</i>)
10/6	8:00 AM	Bird Watching event (<i>all are welcome</i>).
10/6	10:00 AM	Sharefest final day to bring items in.
10/7	9:00 AM	Sharefest Drop Off
10/9	8:00 AM	Columbus Day (<i>office closed</i>)
10/12 & 13	9:00 AM	ECC Picture Day
10/15	1:00 PM	Pet Blessing (<i>pavillion</i>)
10/15	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
10/16	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
10/22	5:00 PM	Stemme Farm Picnic & Hayride (<i>please rsvp</i>)
10/23	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
10/24	6:00 PM	Interfaith Partnership Annual Dinner
10/24	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
10/28	8:00 AM	Pumpkin Run Chesterfield (<i>please volunteer</i>)
10/29	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
10/29	<u>11:00 AM</u>	Mission Meeting (<i>library</i>)
10/30	9:00 AM	ECC Halloween Parade
10/31	12:00 AM	Halloween
10/31	9:00 AM	ECC Halloween Parade
11/1		All Saints Day

more at <https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship> Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

10/08/23 Service

Liturgist: **Mark Strothmann**

Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**

Special Music:

10/15/23 Service

Liturgist: **Mary Polt**

Usher Team: **John Bartelt**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**

Special Music:

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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