

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship September 8, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

"Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above"

arr. Campbell

***The Call to Worship**

My friends, we are called to lives of prayerful awareness of ourselves, of our community, and of the world.

We gather to praise the living God, who hears and answers the outpouring of our prayers.

May we be awakened to the voice of Christ who calls us to faithfulness.

May our faith be seen in using God's resources and resourcefulness in serving the world.

*** Hymn**

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

#586

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

***Gathering Prayer (In Unison)**

Creator of people and nations, you are beyond our knowing, yet closer to us than our every breath. You are before us and behind us, surrounding us with your love, and fashioning all of creation in the secret depths of your heart. With every thought, with every song, and with every prayer, turn these fragile, earthen vessels of our lives, into the Spirit-filled body of Christ. Amen.

Special Music

"Bright & Beautiful"

arr. Hayes

Time for the Child in us All

Rev Katie Jo Bielke

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Mark 7:24-37

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus^[c] ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	"O Christ, the Healer"	#503 vs 1-3,5
O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?	How strong, O Christ, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves! Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.	
From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed: yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.	Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.	

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.)

***Doxology** (*In Unison*)

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*)

All that we do is in your holy name, O God. Even as we share the riches of our labors, may we continue to honor your name in all that we do. Bless these gifts given freely, that your justice and mercy may prevail in this world. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Community of Christ"

#655

Community of Christ,
who make the cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Benediction

Postlude

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**
Violinist: **Hannah Frey**
Songleaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Announcements

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

09/15/24 Service
Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**

09/22/24 Service
Liturgist: **Jan Ittner**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**
Special Music: **Piano Duets**

09/29/24 Service
Liturgist: **Jane Lindberg**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**
Special Music: **Handbells**

We pray for
Donna Dollgener, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina and Gloria Vaclavik.
Please let us know your prayer concerns
If you have private prayer concerns please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

Join the Choir

Music is a vital part of our worship at St. John's UCC. As we head into a new season the choir is **welcoming new members!** Rehearsals are held on rotating Sundays after worship, and we sing in church once per month. **All are invited to join.**

... Looking Ahead

9/8	11:00 AM	Rally Day Brunch All are welcome please join us downstairs.
9/8	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee
9/9	1:00 PM	Exec Council
9/16	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship at Ya Yas (rsvp using QR code >>)
9/16	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
9/17	10:00 AM	Book Group Reading "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins.
9/20	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
9/24	6:30 PM	Women's Fellowship
9/29	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
9/29	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
9/29	4:30 PM	Ronald McDonald House Please volunteer
9/29	2:00 PM	Crop Walk
10/4	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
10/6	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
10/6	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
10/13	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee



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

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

15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540
stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com
www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org



online giving