

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship

Jan 04, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringling of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

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

Members and Visitors please make note of your attendance by signing in on the pew pads.)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"

Spiritual arr. Hayes

*The Call to Worship

Arise; shine, for your light has come!

We are called out of our darkness into light.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

We rejoice in the gift of light.

Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

We come to kneel before the Christ Child, the light incarnate.

* Hymn

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

**Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.**

*Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

Loving God, who breaks through the darkness of doubt and despair, be with us this day as we hear of the visit of the Wise Ones, who risked everything to follow a Star. Let us open our hearts and be willing to risk receiving the gift of gracious Love that you have to offer us. Amen.

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Katie Jo

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"
**Child of God your loving parent,
Learn to listen for God's call
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
Trust and love God more than all.**

Special Music

"Gesu Bambino"

Yon arr. Hayes

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	"We Three Kings"	#172
<p>We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.</p> <p>[Refrain] (after 1 & 5 only) O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.</p> <p>Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.</p>	<p>Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God on high.</p> <p>Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom, sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.</p> <p>Glorious now behold him arise, Christ and God and sacrifice: alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]</p>	

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 or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

"Jesus the Light of the World"

Elderken

***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)

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time. Let them shine for all to see. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Telling the Story

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Meal *(the wafers in the middle of the bread trays are gluten free)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(In Unison)*

Holy God of stars and sinners, we give thanks for this meal that nourishes and challenges us. Here we proclaim our call and potential to be a family that truly cares and watches out for each other. May this Holy Meal draw us close, as Your children, to feast on the bread of hope, to be refreshed by the nectar of your grace, and to make room for all your children to be fed. In the Name of Emmanuel, we pray, Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Lovely Star in the Sky"

#175

**Lovely star in the sky, Banishing the night,
Shine down and hallow us, Light up our path.
Star shining in the East, Be our true guide;
Lead us to Bethlehem, Where the child lies.**

**Royal child lying there, manger for a bed,
with all the animals sleeping in hay;
angels sing reverently, worship the child,
lowly in majesty, ruler of all.**

**What can we do to show our devotion true?
Shall we present to him sweet smelling gifts:
Far mountain's frankincense,
sandalwood, myrrh?
Shall it be precious gold, pearls from the sea?**

**None of these things of price
would give Jesus joy;
How then will we express thanks for his birth?
One present, one alone, Christ would desire:
Love from our deepest heart, our own best
love.**

Benediction

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
 Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Special Music: **Meher Arora**
 Communion: **Donna Switzer & Helen Stortz**

Announcements

**Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Andy Kissel,
 Danny Mueller, Anita Paz and Melanie Spangler.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns. Private prayer concerns speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

01/11/26 Service Liturgist: Carolyn Golfin Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Steve Hawkinson Special Music: Violin	01/18/26 Service Liturgist: Amanda Jones Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Steve Hawkinson Special Music: Flautist	01/25/26 Service Liturgist: Danny Mueller Usher Team: Larry Sontag Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Steve Hawkinson Special Music: Handbells
Join us on Sundays 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship with coffee and donuts 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 <i>stjohnsuccconlive@gmail.com</i> www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

... Looking Ahead

Mon	01/05/26	9:00 AM	ECC Classes resume
Thu	01/08/26	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Sun	01/11/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Mon	01/12/26	9:00 AM	ECC Fall Registration Opens
Mon	01/12/26	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Mon	01/12/26	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	01/13/26	10:00 AM	Book Club “The Cuban Heiress”
Sat	01/17/26		Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	01/18/26	11:00 AM	Budget Café January 18
Mon	01/19/26		MLK Closed
Tue	01/20/26	9:00 AM	Art Museum Trip
Thu	01/22/26	5:30 pm	Table Fellowship
Sun	01/25/26	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	01/25/26	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting January 25
Tue	01/27/26	6:30 pm	Women's Game Night
Sun	02/01/26	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday

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

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

We are livestreaming Sunday morning service. You can join us live or watch the YouTube later.

Facebook: Find the
livestream here:



YouTube: View the
video here:



Website: Find more
Info here:



Offering

