

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship January 1, 2023

Start of a New Year

Prayer in Preparation

Holy God, you make us a community. You gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kingdom. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Due to the increased number of Covid cases recently, we are recommending the use of masks)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Happy New Year.

Peace be with you.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

*The Call to Worship

One: Gather round,

All: Young, older and in between, gather together.

One: Come from near and far, come open and expectant,

All: Create a symphony of praise, a bouquet of joy,

One: And pray that God will weave us into:

All: A people of compassion, a community of prayer, a family of care.

One: Come, gather round. Hear God's Word,

All: Be challenged to serve, and raise a voice in song.

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Holy Child of Bethlehem, come to us again as this new year begins. We open wide the doors to our hearts. Come, let your love shine in us to ease our fears and calm our worry. Come, fill us with a joy that knows no boundaries. Come, fill us with light that brightens every corner of darkness. Loving God, come to us again and be with through this new year. Amen.

* Hymn

"There's a Song in the Air"

#159

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the angel
choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
See, the star rains its fire while the angel
choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!
(over ->)

We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng,
and we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,
and we greet in the cradle our savior and king.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

For the Child in Us

Pastor Lisa

Scripture Reading: **Philippians 3:4b-14**

ONE: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*In Unison*)

Eternal God, the dawn of a new year prompts us to reflect on our past and hope for our future. Help us live every day seeking your way and moving on your path. Help us commit to love and resolve to extend the grace and mercy we need from you and our neighbor. Make us new. Amen.

* Hymn	"Down to Earth"	#168
Down to earth, as a dove, came to light holy love; Jesus Christ from above bringing great salvation, meant for every nation. Refrain: Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring. Christ is here, ever near! Gloria in excelsis.	This is love come to light, now is fear put to flight. God defeats evil's blight; giving for our sorrows hope of new tomorrows. [Refrain] Jesus Christ comes to feed hungry ones in their need; in the house there is bread: Jesus in a stable, in the church a table. [Refrain]	

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**

Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)

Generous and loving God, bless our giving. Stir up the gifts within for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Act of Covenant

One: Choose this day whom you will serve, and whom you will worship. Will you worship and serve Yahweh in sincerity and faithfulness, or will you follow after other gods?

All: **Far be it from us that we should forsake Yahweh to serve other gods, for it is Yahweh our God who has brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, and who has done great things in our sight.**

ONE: And what are the deeds to which you testify?

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (*In Unison*)

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
And to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

One: Do you commit yourselves today to take up the cost and joy of discipleship to Jesus Christ during the coming year and henceforth?

All: **As we begin this new year, we renew our covenant with one another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God. We commit to walk together in all God's ways, made known and yet to be made known to us. We will join in the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God and striving for truth, justice, and peace, relying on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We will pray for the coming of the realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life. This we will do, with the help of God.**

Words of Institution

Blessing the Bread and cup

Sharing the Elements

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)**

Faithful God, we are thankful that you have revealed to us the vision of life in covenant with you and with one another. We are thankful that you have sent Jesus Christ to invite people of all ages, tongues, and races into faithful covenant, and that Christ is present with us in the breaking of bread. Through your Spirit, strengthen us to be faithful in all we have promised today. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"We Sing with Gladness"

tune #613

**We sing aloud with gladness, for God has saved and healed
God gathered humble people, and boundless grace revealed.
In Jesus Christ, God offered true light to All the earth
Empowering us, God's children, to realize our worth.**

**Our God has blessed and chosen the weak, the blind, the lame,
As bearers of the promise, as workers in Christ's name.
Each one of us has value, what e'er our age or skills.
God fills our lives with purpose and meaning that fulfills.**

**God's word in Christ confronts us with truth that we must share.
Our witness to Christ's glory will demonstrate God's care.
The blessings of the Spirit are meant for one and all.
Be radiant, be joyful, in answer to God's call.**

Benediction & Postlude

Please take your poinsettias home after service.

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Song leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Liturgist: **Rich Brandon**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Lockup: **Janis Boehm**

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Announcements

01/08/23 Service

Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

01/15/23 Service

Liturgist: **Mary Polt**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

Please check your Newsnotes for January birthdays. Speaking of birthdays **Betty Gschwind** is turning **98 on December 29th!** We invite you to show her a little love by sending her a note or card. If you have a moment to add a memory we know she would really enjoy reading that too! Thank you!

**Betty Gschwind
15250 Village View Dr.
Friendship Village Care Center,
Grand #8953
Chesterfield, MO 63017**

We pray for **Shirley Carmack, Betty Gschwind, Arland Stemme, A.J. Switzer**
and **Paul VanDriest** Please let us know your prayer concerns.

A Look Ahead

1/6/23	Epiphany
1/8/2023	Sunday School Resumes
1/8/2023	Unhanging of the Greens
1/16/23	MLK Office Closed
1/22/23	Budget Café on January 22
1/24/23	Ladies Bunco Fellowship
1/29/23	Loaves and Fishes
2/5/23	Annual meeting of the congregation

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

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

Worship Services

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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