

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship September 11, 2022

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer in Preparation *An Islander's prayer from Melanesia*

O Jesus, be the canoe that holds me up in the sea of life; be the rudder that keeps me in the straight road; be the outrigger that supports me in ties of temptation. Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each day. Keep y body strong so that I can paddle steadfastly on in the voyage of life. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand. Our church is following the current CDC guidelines.)*

***Passing the Peace**

Prelude

"Andante"

Williams

***Call to Worship**

One: If you've wandered far from home,

All: Turn around, come home.

One: If the road is bumpy and rough, and you've lost your way,

All: You can come home.

One: If friends only like you for what you can do,

All: There is a place where love is real.

One: If the nights are long and lonely,

All: God is always awake, right by your side.

One: If doubts and questions swirl around you,

All: Come home to a church that knows how to listen.

One: If the good life is suddenly empty,

All: Return to the sweet sound of people singing on their way home.

***Hymn**

"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#558 verses 1 & 2

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are.**

**We are thine, do thou befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear, O hear us when we pray.**

***Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

Most loving and inviting God, you have gathered us here together from the four winds. From the beginning, you said it isn't good for us to try to go through life alone, and so today we gather as pilgrims journeying together, sharing our faith, our joys and our concerns. We hold one another up when times are hard and celebrate when times are good. Together, we share a bond, commitment and purpose that unite us and make us stronger. For all these things and many more, we thank you, gracious Redeemer, Healer and Comforter. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in Us All

Jane Lindberg

Scriptures:

Luke 15:1-10

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Message

* Hymn:	<i>"Softly and Tenderly"</i>	#340 verses 1 & 3
<p>Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; patient and loving, he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.</p> <p>[Refrain:] Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"</p>	<p>O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me; tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.</p> <p>[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.**

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 [online](#), by text at 833-502-0657, or by 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, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn:

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

#720

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with servanthood
from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

Benediction

Postlude

"Festal Postlude"

Noordman

Preaching: **Reverend Carl Dwayne Dollgener**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **MaryPolt**
Organist: **Evelyn Weber**
Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Monica Hart**

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Announcements

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

09/18/22 Service
Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Monica Hart**

09/25/22 Service
Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Monica Hart**

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

Our Mission Ministry Team has received from the UCC Global Missions Board the information on our St. John's **sponsored child, Kayla**, who is a recently placed resident of the Pringle Home for Girls in Jamaica. Please **see the newsletter** for more information about how you can get involved.

Sunday School Summer **Recess** September 11
Fall Session Sunday School begins **September 18.**
Sunday School begins at 10:00 in the Sanctuary.
Join us for our annual
Rally Day Brunch at 11:00 on September 18th.
All are welcome!

A Look Ahead

9/11/22		Summer Recess-Sunday School resumes 9/18
9/18/22		Rally Day
9/18/22		Rally Day Blessing of the shool supply
9/19-9//21		UCC Summit Online
9/25/22	9:15 am	Loaves & Fishes
10/2/22	10 am	Neighbors in Need offering World Communion Sunday
10/2/22	4:30 pm	Crop Walk
10/23/22		Stemme Farm Picnic
10/25/22		Bunko Women's Fellowship
10/30/22	9:15 am	Loaves & Fishes
10/30/22	10 am	Totenfest
10/30/22	11 am	Trunk o Treat after service.
10/31/22		Halloween

Please check your **News Notes** specific information around **upcoming activities.**

St. John's United Church of Christ
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Worship Services

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. –Worship and Sunday School
In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual