

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday In Lent

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

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

"At the Cross"

Hudson arr Coleman

***The Call to Worship**

Let us gather to worship.

O God, we wish to see Jesus! We come to worship, to pray, and learn.

We come looking for Jesus in Scripture lessons, in our own life experiences, in helping our world, in prayers for each other.

We seek to follow in the way of Jesus.

We lay bare before God and one another our own wilderness journey filled with some gladness and hope, with reluctance and sorrow, with fear and confusion.

O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!

Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus, so that we may show forth Jesus in our lives, our faith community, and our world.

Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)

Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

*** Hymn**

"This is a Day of New Beginnings"

#518 v 1,2,3

**This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Call to Confession.

Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives, and often struggle to beat in rhythm with your own. O God, come to us and make us whole. Write *grace* upon our hearts, so we might be more forgiving people; write *mercy* on our hearts, so we might become more welcoming people; write *hospitality* upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ who came for all people, even us. Amen.

Words of Grace

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Special Music

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Lowry arr. Coleman

Time for the Child in us All

Rev. Katie Jo Bielke

Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:31-34 & John 12:20-33

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A New Covenant

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people[a] to myself." 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

*** Hymn***"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"*

#254

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

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**

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)*

O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE*** Hymn***"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

#344

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus--
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me--
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow,
though none go with me, I still will follow,
though none go with me, I still will follow,
no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.

Benediction**Postlude***"Where He Leads Me/He Leadeth Me"***Bradberry arr. Adams**

Preaching: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Violinist: **Chris Sasse**

Announcements

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

We pray for **Richard Camp, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina, Barbara Tretter** and **Gloria Vaclavik** Please let us know your prayer concerns

03/24/24 Palm Sunday Service

Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**

03/31/24 Easter Sunday Service

Liturgist: **Mark Strothman**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Special Music: **Handbells & Choir**

04/07/24 Service

Liturgist: **David Leech**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo**
Special Music: **Handbells**

Jackie Karalunas, Development Director at Loaves & Fishes will do the mission moment at the **March 17** service. Following the service, Ms. Karalunas will be available in the Narthex if anyone has questions about any aspect of the Loaves & Fishes mission. For the remainder of March, we plan to collect much-needed shelter supplies. St. John's currently supplies 60 sack lunches one day a month, but we would like to do more. Please help us by donating urgently needed supplies beginning **March 17 and ending April 8**. Those needs are:

Diapers 3t and up
Unscented Sanitary
Allergy Meds for Adults
Cold Meds for Children
Cold Meds for Adults

Baby Wipes
Laundry Soap
Napkins
Lotion

Multi Surface Cleaner
Unscented Tampons
Lysol
Tylenol
Deodorant

Use the QR code to see our registry



Holy Week 2024

Please join us!

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday Service, March 24 at 10 AM

Maundy Thursday

March 28 at 6 PM Table Worship and a Light Meal

Good Friday Service

Friday, March 29 at 7 pm

Easter Sunday

Join us Easter Sunday as we celebrate the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Sunday, March 31 Worship at 10 am

Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn following the worship service

All Sunday services are livestreamed on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages

... Looking Ahead

3/17	10:00 AM	5th Sunday of Lent
3/17		Mission Moment Loaves and Fishes
3/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
3/18 to 22		ECC Spring Break
3/21	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at Yaya's Chesterfield <i>(note date change)</i>
3/22		Biweekly Newsletter
3/24		Global Ministries Pray for Cuba
3/24	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes <i>(note date change)</i>
3/24	10:00 AM	6th Sunday of Lent
3/24	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting <i>(note date change)</i>
3/26	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
3/28	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday, <i>(table worship and a light meal)</i>
3/29		ECC No School
3/29	7:00 PM	Good Friday Services
3/30		Holy Saturday
3/31	10:00 AM	Easter Sunday
3/31	11:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
3/31		Global Ministries Pray for Greece
4/5	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
4/7	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
4/7	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
4/7		Global Ministries Pray for Lesotho
4/8	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
4/12	5:30 PM	Wine Tasting
4/14		Global Ministries Pray for Puerto Rico
4/15	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
4/17	10:30 AM	Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Tour
4/18	6:00 PM	ECC Art Show

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

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

SJUCC and SJECC Families and Friends

Please join us for our

Easter Egg Hunt!!

Easter Sunday, March 31

10 am Worship Service

(come as you are!)

Egg Hunt after service on front lawn

Bring an Easter basket! (or we will have a bag for you)

Kindly RSVP by 03/29: to church or Laura Renth

Church office: 636-532-0540 or StJohnsUCConOlive@gmail.com

Wine Tasting Friday April 12, 5pm in the Community Room \$12 per person

Friends and family welcome!

Due to the number of tastings per bottle, we will reserve in groups of 12 participants. Once there are 12 paid reservations, a "wait list" will be created for an additional 12 participants. Please contact Lynn Potts now to reserve your spot! LPotts14@gmail.com

Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Tour April 17 at 10:30 am followed by **lunch in our cafe**. Sign in at 10:20 am Tours generally last one hour and are fairly walking intensive (stairs, ramps, walkways). Participants must be 18 years or older. Photography is permitted in the public areas but NOT ALLOWED in labs, core facilities or greenhouses. Please do not bring food or drink, other than bottled water. Sign up in the Narthex or ONLINE.

NAMETAGS

With the arrival of **Pastor Katie Jo** and her first service on March 10, we are reminding everyone to try and remember **to wear your nametag** at church!



Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies are available for order. They will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter and you may take them home after the Easter service. The cost is \$13 per plant. You may drop your order in the offertory, church office, or email us at stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com or call your order in at 636.532.0540. You may pay with one check but please fill out a separate line for each "Given in ()..." for each plant.

Given to the glory of God; in () memory () honor () celebration of:

Given to the glory of God; in () memory () honor () celebration of:

Given to the glory of God; in () memory () honor () celebration of:

Given by:

Total Plants _____ Total Check _____

All orders are due by *TODAY* March 17.

☐ I will take the plants home after Easter

☐ I will leave the plants at church



Or order online using this QR code:

**15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017
(636) 532-0540**

**stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com
www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org**