

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, grant us in these moments we spend together such a taste of your bounty that we will be eager every day to meet you in prayer, meditation, and study of the Scriptures. May we be confident of finding you in our relationships and in all we do, that our lives may honor you and bring joy to others. Amen

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

Lord, Be Glorified

Kilpatrick arr. Hayes

*Call to Worship

One: We come into the presence of the Holy God,

All: Who may not be grasped,

One: But may be gazed upon;

All: Who is not easily understood,

One: But is full of understanding;

All: Who does not come at our beck and call,

One: But who is always near.

All: We gather as God's children

One: In confident assurance that God is here.

* Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)

Living God, at times you seem so distant; help us know you are near. At times we stray; welcome us home. Standing in your presence, we know there are other people we could be with; help us bridge the gap between your presence and the people we love. We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.**

**Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, fount, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the Gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

Confession of Sin

One: God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way. God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all. Therefore, I invite you to confess all that would separate you from God or one another. When we have fashioned idols of our own desire or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: When have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice, or failed to extend the invitation to others,

All: Christ, have mercy.

One: When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,

All: Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Praise be to God, who forgiveness and steadfast love endures forever.

All: Praise God! Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**Special Music**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Ingram

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Hymn"My Life Flows On"*

#619 verses 1, 2, 3

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I hear the clear, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

[Refrain:]

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [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.

Response: (*"Rain Down" refrain*)

Rain down, rain down.
Rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down
Rain down your love, God of life.

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 Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, may our giving reflect the amazing abundance you entrust to our care. As we find joy in giving, may others be inspired to give their best, and may all of us realize your peace, dwelling within and among us as, we serve in Christ's name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"He Leadeth Me"

#545 verses 1 and 2

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

[Refrain:]

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis thy hand that leadeth me.
[Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**

Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Mary Polt**

Usher Team: **John Bartelt**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**

Handbells: **Lee Difani, Lisa Hart, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Ruth Notch**

Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **Democratic Republic of Congo** this week

We pray for

**Ava Baumann, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Bill Lubbin, Mary Macalady, Jeannie Rucker,
Barbara Tretter, Amy Tucker and Paul Van Driest.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns

10/22/23 Service

Liturgist: **Warren Stemme**

Usher Team: **Phil Difani**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**

10/29/23 Service

Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**

Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship & Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**



**Please Join Us this Afternoon at 1:00 PM for the Pet Blessing
in the pavilion.**

**There will be dog treats & bandanas and cat treats and toys. I
will bring a picture of my cat so we can bless her without
torturing her with the trip there. Others could do the same.**

A Look Ahead

10/15	1:00 PM	Pet Blessing (<i>pavilion</i>)
10/15	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee
10/16	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
10/22	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
10/22	5:00 PM	Stemme Farm Picnic & Hayride (<i>please rsvp</i>)
10/23	6:00 PM	Last Day for ECC Fundraiser
10/23	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
10/24	6:00 PM	Interfaith Partnership Annual Dinner
10/24	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
10/28	8:00 AM	Pumpkin Run Chesterfield (<i>please volunteer</i>)
10/29	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
10/29	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (<i>library</i>)
10/30	9:00 AM	ECC Halloween Parade
10/31	12:00 AM	Halloween
10/31	9:00 AM	ECC Halloween Parade
11/1		All Saints Day
11/4	11:00 AM	Shirley Carmack's Funeral & Reception
11/5	12:00 AM	Daylight Savings Time ends
11/5	12:00 AM	Global Ministries pray for Brazil
11/5	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
11/5	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
11/6	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (<i>zoom</i>)
11/8& 9	12:00 AM	ECC Parent/Teacher
11/10	12:00 AM	Veterans Day (office closed)
11/13	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee

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

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

St. John's United Church of Christ

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