

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship August 6, 2023

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Meet me here, Holy God, to search my heart and strengthen my spirit. Plant your Word in me that it may spring up in nurturing, inviting ways for the sake of all your creatures. May I find in these moments of worship the assurance I need to live triumphantly in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead me, by the teaching and example of Jesus, to trust you and your will for me. Help me remember that whatever happens, you can bring some good from it. Show me, O God, the good you intend. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

Prelude

"Rejoice the Lord is King"

arr. Pethel

*Call to Worship

One: Let us declare the greatness of God:

All: Who fills the earth with beauty,

One: Causes the sea to shout praise

All: And the birds to sing glory.

One: Great and loving is our God:

All: Touching us in our need,

One: Sending friends to listen and embrace,

All: Giving food in all seasons with abundant grace.

One: Holy and awesome is our God:

All: Painting sunsets that take our breath away,

One: Whispering comfort in the darkest night,

All: Filling the silence with a gentle presence.

One: Wondrous and compassionate is our God:

All: Guarding us as the apple of God's eye,

One: Holding us with infinite and tender care,

All: Setting our hearts on fire, our minds to new possibilities and our voices to singing.

*Hymn

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

#6 verses 1, 2, 3

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

Our God is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band;
to God all praise and glory!

Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own God's power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone;
to God all praise and glory!

***Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

We are in awe before you, O God, for you have provided for us in rich abundance. The earth is full of your provisions. There is beauty all around us from the work of your hands. You have surrounded us with people who care about us with the love of Christ. Help us, O God, to count our blessings. Point us beyond our cries and complaints that we might realize our capacity to act in your name for the sake of others. As we wrestle with issues of faith and trust, help us to risk our false security for the venture of feeding others in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

Special Music

"Break Thou the Bread of Life"

Sherwin

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

***Hymn**

"We Have Heard"

tune #705

**We have heard the voice of Jesus calling all of us to feed
All the hungry, thirsting multitudes who live in fear and need.
We can feed them with the joyous news that they are loved and freed
as children of God's love.**

Chorus:

**Join in songs of adoration, filling this and ev'ry nation,
Living out our true vocation, as children of God's love.**

**God, equip us for your service in the work we do each day.
Be our constant inspiration in our struggles and our play.
May the food that you supply be blessed among us as we pray
for strength to share your love. [Chorus]**

Pastoral Prayer

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 (*In Unison*)**

Thank you, God, for all you have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hungers when we turn to you. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our giving proclaim your goodness and mercy. May our gifts be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from your hand. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Miracle of Communion:

The miracle of Communion means the rich bowing down with the poor, the learned with the unlearned, the clean with the filthy, the master with the slave, the privileged with the deprived, the white with the black and the black with the white.

(Rosa Page Welch, 20th century African American Disciples singer)

* Hymn	"I Come with Joy"	#420 vs1, 2, & 3
I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.	As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.	

Prayer of Consecration

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.

Sharing the Cup and Fruit of the Vine

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

We thank you, God, for inviting us to the table, where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#517, verses 1, 2, 4

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest;
take away the love of sinning,
alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

One: May we go from this time of worship, out into the world.

All: May we go from this place to live God's will,

One: to pray and serve,

All: to be awestruck by God's mighty acts,

One: to share love with all we meet,

All: to feed the hungry and care for the sick,

One: to act as peacemakers,

All: and to fill the world with hope in Christ. Amen.

Postlude

"I Love to Tell The Story"

Fischer arr. Whitworth

Preaching:	Pastor Lisa Hart
Director of Music Ministry:	Ruth Notch
Liturgist:	Ellen Brandon
Usher Team:	John Bartelt
Technology Team:	Steve Hawkinson
Fellowship & Lockup:	Ken Ruff
Organ/Piano Duet:	Ellen Brandon & Ruth Notch
CHANCEL CHOIR:	Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Susie Pisoni, Helen Stortz

COPYRIGHT NOTICE - © Music used with permission of Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc. #696970

Announcements

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

We pray for **June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Bill Lubbin, Ellen Meier, Marilyn Norton, Jeannie Rucker, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns

If you would like to be a liturgist please contact Carolyn Golfin or Pastor Lisa

08/13/23 Service
 Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Ken Ruff**

08/20/23 Service
 Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Ken Ruff**

Wed, August 9, 9:45am – 1:15pm Art Museum Tour & Lunch *(all are welcome)*

Join us in the church parking lot at 9:45 am. We will carpool to the art museum to enjoy a tour of the museum. We will then go to lunch at the Art Museum café and carpool back to church. Please RSVP in the Narthex or contact the office. Thank you!

A Look Ahead

8/7	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (<i>zoom</i>)
8/9	9:45 AM	Art Museum Tour & Lunch
8/13		Global Ministries pray for Zimbabwe
8/13	10 AM	Last Summer Sunday Funday
8/13	11 AM	Men's Group Brainstorming Session
8/14	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
8/20		Global Ministries pray for Syria
8/20	10 AM	Hymn Sing
8/20	10 AM	No Sunday School
8/21	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
8/22	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
8/26	12:00 PM	Sharefest Drive Information
8/27		Global Ministries pray for Puerto Rico
8/27	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
8/27	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (<i>in library</i>)
8/27	10 AM	No Sunday School
8/28	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
8/29	9:00 AM	ECC Staff Meeting
8/31	9:30 AM	ECC Visit Day
9/1	9:30 AM	ECC Visit Day
9/2	12:00 PM	Sharefest Drive MO Food Box
9/3		Global Ministries pray for Philippines
9/3	10 AM	Communion Sunday
9/3	11 AM	Senior Ministry meeting (<i>in library</i>)
9/3	10 AM	No Sunday School
9/4	8:00 AM	Labor Day (office closed)
9/4	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (<i>zoom</i>)
9/5	9:00 AM	ECC Begins
9/9	12:00 PM	Sharefest Drive MO Personal Hygiene
9/10	10:00 AM	Rally Day

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

15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccconlive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org