

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship September 1, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringing of the Chimes

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

"The Gift of Love"

Raney

***The Call to Worship**

Whom do you seek here in this place?

We seek God, the Creator, who brought us to life.

Who has told you of God?

Jesus Christ, God's Son, has shown us the love of God through his life.

Discipleship is difficult. Are you ready?

We want to be ready. Lord, strengthen and sustain us this day. AMEN.

*** Hymn**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#66

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praises we render: O help us to see
that only the splendor of light hideth thee.

***Gathering Prayer** *(In Unison)*

Holy One of mystery and power, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below, keeping covenant and steadfast love with all who walk before you. Fill our lives with your glory, as you filled the temple with cloud when Solomon first brought the ark into your holy dwelling place. Give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of evil in our lives and in our world. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**Scriptures: 1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11,22-30,41-43****Dedication of the Temple**

8 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

⁶ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³ He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴ the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵

Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' ²⁶ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed that you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷ "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today, ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

⁴¹ "Likewise when foreigners, who are not of your people Israel, come from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when foreigners come and pray toward this house, ⁴³ then hear in heaven your dwelling place and do whatever the foreigners ask of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

| * Hymn | <i>"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"</i> | # 305 x2 |
|---|--|--|
| Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. | | Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. |

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.)

Offertory

"Largo from Sonata in F Major"

Telemann

***Doxology** *(In Unison)*

**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)*

In faith and gratitude we return these gifts that they may proclaim the mystery of your love and glorify the gospel. May hearts and lives be drawn to you by the witness our offerings will make in this community of faith and among all people you call us to serve. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Remembering the Story

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Meal *(the wafers in the middle of the bread trays are gluten free)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, through your son Jesus you have given authority to your church to bring grace and freedom to the world. As we gather at your table to renew our confession that he is Lord and Messiah through the breaking of bread and receiving of wine, help us to know that in his name and in his presence we are empowered to bring that grace and freedom to all. Pour out your Holy Spirit now to renew your church even as you renew our spirits here, that we may all know and confess the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"We Come as Guests Invited"

#386

We come as guests invited
when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united
to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken
the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token
of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving
from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing
on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving
for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living
our ever-present friend.

One bread is ours for sharing,
one single, fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring
renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained, and given
by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven,
the love of Christ our Lord.

Benediction

Postlude

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Craig Bielke**

Usher Team: **Phil Difani**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**

Flute: **Jennifer Adams**

Communion Service: **Helen Stortz & Mary Jane Duperrett**

Announcements

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

09/08/24 Service

Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**

Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**

Special Music: **Violin**

09/15/24 Service

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**

Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**

09/22/24 Service

Liturgist: **Jan Ittner**

Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**

Special Music: **Piano Duets**

We pray for

Donna Dollgener, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina and Gloria Vaclavik.

Please let us know your prayer concerns

If you have private prayer concern please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

Join the Choir

Music is a vital part of our worship at St. John's UCC. As we head into a new season the choir is **welcoming new members!** Rehearsals are held on rotating Sundays after worship, and we sing in church once per month. **All are invited to join.**

... Looking Ahead

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---|
| 9/1 | 11:00 AM | Chancel Choir rehearsal <i>(come and see if you are interested)</i> |
| 9/1 | 11:00 AM | Senior Ministry Meeting |
| 9/2 | | Labor Day <i>(office closed)</i> |
| 9/3 | 9 am | Early Childhood Center School Starts |
| 9/6 | 8:00 AM | Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe) |
| 9/8 | 10:00 AM | Rally Day |
| 9/8 | 11:00 AM | Christian Education Committee |
| 9/9 | 1:00 PM | Exec Council |
| 9/16 | 6:00 PM | Council Meeting |
| 9/17 | 10:00 AM | Book Group Reading "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. |
| 9/20 | 8:00 AM | Biweekly Newsletter |
| 9/24 | 6:30 PM | Women's Fellowship |
| 9/26 | 5:30 PM | Table Fellowship at TBD |
| 9/29 | 9:20 AM | Loaves & Fishes |
| 9/29 | 11:00 AM | Mission Meeting |
| 9/29 | 4:30 PM | Ronald McDonald House Volunteering |
| 9/29 | 2:00 PM | Crop Walk |

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

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

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

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online giving



Stained Glass Window Fund