

# St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship      September 29, 2024

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

## Ringling of the Chimes

### Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the \* indicates when you should stand*

*Members and Visitors please make note of your attendance by signing in on the pew pads.)*

### \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

**And also with you**

### Prelude

*"Processional"*

Helman

### \*The Call to Worship

Welcome in the name of the Lord.

**We are glad to be here.**

Open your hearts today to hear God's word for you.

**We open our spirits to receive God's healing love.**

Remember that God has called you to service.

**Lord, help us to be ready to serve you in all that we do.**

Listen for God's call to you.

**Lord, we are listening and seeking your guidance. AMEN.**

### \* Hymn

*"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"*

# 82

Why should I feel discouraged,  
why should the shadows come,  
why should my heart be lonely,  
and long for heaven and home,  
when Jesus is my portion?  
My constant Friend is he:  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled,"  
his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth,  
but one step I may see;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

Whenever I am tempted,  
whenever clouds arise,  
when songs give place to sighing,  
when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him,  
from care he sets me free;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

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

**Christ Jesus, we come into your presence from many different places. We come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude. We come carrying heavy burdens and sighs of suffering. As you welcome us into your house, lift our burdens and receive our praise. Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one another and be strengthened to go forth in service to the world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

**Special Music**

*"I've Got Peace Like a River"*

**Waldrop**

**Time for the Child in us All**

**Rev Katie Jo Bielke**

*"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"*  
**Child of God your loving parent,  
Learn to listen for God's call  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
Trust and love God more than all.**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**Scriptures: Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22**

7 1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." 3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. 4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." 5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" 6 Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." 10 So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

20 Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21 enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, 22 as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
 pilgrim through this barren land;  
 I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
 hold me with thy powerful hand.  
 bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
 feed me till I want no more;  
 feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
 whence the healing waters flow.  
 let the fire and cloudy pillar  
 lead me all my journey through.  
 strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
 be thou still my strength and shield;  
 be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
 bid my anxious fears subside;  
 bear me through the swelling current;  
 land me safe on Canaan's side.  
 songs of praises, songs of praises,  
 I will ever give to thee;  
 I will ever give to thee.

**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**

*"Celebration No. 5 in C"*

**Keller**

**\*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)*

Receive our lives, O God, which we offer in token to you through the offering of these gifts.  
 May we, and may they, be used for the purposes to which you have called them, and to which  
 you call your whole church, in the works of love and healing and justice shown in Jesus  
 Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* Hymn

*"Lift Every Voice"*

#631

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise  
high as the listening skies;  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun  
of our new day begun,  
let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet, with a steady beat,  
have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past,  
till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light;  
keep us for ever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand  
may we for ever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**  
Liturgist: **Rev. Dr. Rich Brandon**  
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship/Lockup: **Monica Hart**  
Handbells: **Norma Armstrong, Pastor Katie Jo Bielke, Lee Difani,  
Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni**  
Songleaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

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# Announcements

We pray for

**Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Kevin Beatty, Donna Dollgener, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina and Gloria Vaclavik.** Please let us know your prayer concerns  
If you have private prayer concerns please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

**Global Ministries** requests that we pray with **the Middle East** this week

## 10/06/24 Service

Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**  
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship/Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Communion Service:  
**Carolyn Golfin & Judy Dierberg**  
Special Music: **Choir & Flautist**

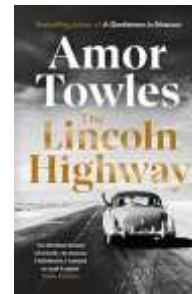
## 10/13/24 Service

Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**  
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship/Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**

## 10/20/24 Service

Liturgist: **Danielle Dolan**  
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**  
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship/Lockup: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Special Music: **Violinist**

Book Group will be meeting on  
Tuesday, October 15 at 10am.  
We will be discussing  
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.



In 2024, the **Neighbors in Need** theme is “Mental Health Justice For All!” This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice. Please take a special envelope from the pews or use the QR code to donate with your mobile phone.



Neighbors in Need

One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. We will collect the offering on or before **Oct 6**.

## ... Looking Ahead

Sun	9/29	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Sun	9/29	2:00 PM	<b>Crop Walk</b>
<b>To donate</b> , please go to the Crop Walk website ( <a href="https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks">https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks</a> ) and click on the 'Make a Donation' in the yellow box.			
Sun	9/29	4:30 PM	<b>Ronald McDonald House</b> (please RSVP Narthex or QR below)
Fri	10/4	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
Sun	10/6	10:00 AM	<b>Neighbors in Need Offering</b>
Sun	10/6	10:00 AM	<b>Communion Sunday</b>
Sun	10/6	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Sat	10/12		<b>Rev Katie Jo's (milestone) birthday</b>
Sat	10/12		<b>Festival of Sharing</b> (please RSVP to help in the Narthex)
Sun	10/13	10:00 AM	<b>Pet Blessing, Outdoor Service at the Pavilion</b>
Sun	10/13	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee
Mon	10/14	1:00 PM	Exec Council
Mon	10/14		Columbus Day (office closed)
Tue	10/15	10:00 AM	<b>Book Group 'The Lincoln Highway' by Amor Towles.</b>
Wed	10/16	9:00 AM	<b>Day trip to Hermann, MO</b> (please RSVP in the Narthex or QR below)
Thu	10/17	6:30 PM	<b>Scam Awareness Presentation by Chesterfield Police Dept</b>
Fri	10/18	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
Fri	10/18	6:00 PM	<b>Circle of Concern Trivia Night</b> (please RSVP in the Narthex)
Sun	10/20	11:00 AM	<b>Medicare Made Easy Ted Gottlieb</b> (please RSVP Narthex or QR)
Mon	10/21	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	10/22	6:30 PM	<b>Women's Game Night</b>
Thu	10/24	5:30 PM	<b>Table Fellowship at Mimi's Cafe</b> (please RSVP Narthex or QR code)
Sat	10/26	10:00 AM	<b>Stemme Farm Picnic Setup</b> (please volunteer)
Sun	10/27	9:20 AM	<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes</b>
Sun	10/27	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Sun	10/27	5:00 PM	<b>Stemme Farm Picnic</b> (please RSVP in the Narthex or QR below)

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

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



RSVP Ronald McDonald House



RSVP Day Trip HERRMANN



RSVP MEDICARE Made Easy



RSVP TABLE FELLOWSHIP



RSVP STEMMER FARM

### 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