

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

God with us—The one who take us from the tent to the throne—The one who prepares places for us and promises rest from our enemies—we open our hearts and souls to the beauty of your kingdom. We seek to hear the precious news once again that we might be continually renewed, transformed, and awed by your abundant love, everlasting peace, miraculous hope, and quenchless joy. May our praise and prayers be pleasing to you. May our lives reflect the beauty you have birthed in us. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

*** Passing of the Peace. Greet one another spreading the news of God's love for us all**

Prelude

"Star in the Night"
by William Bay

Bay arr. Archer

***Call to Worship**

Magnificat #131

Luke 1:46b-55

Mary's Song of Praise

One: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

All: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.

One: From this day all generations will call me blessed;

All: The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is the name of the Lord, whose mercy is on those who fear God from generation to generation.

Sung response: My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

One: The arm of the Lord is strong, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

All: God has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

One: God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

All: God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant, remembering the promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and to his children forever.

Sung response: My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

Special Music

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"
Canticle of Turning

arr. Hayes

*** Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

God of unseen angels and unheard greetings, whose love for humankind continues even when we are inattentive, favor us now with a message we cannot ignore. Reign among us that we may respond to your call and serve with faithfulness in the ways you envision for us. Make us messengers of your love and instruments of your peace. Amen.

Special Music

"On a Starlit Night"

Gruber arr. Gallina

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Prayer (*In Unison*)

O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person—Babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

***Hymn**

"One Candle is Lit"

#128

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet You as roses the light.
Salvation, draw near us Our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

Come wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

For the Child in Us

Pastor Lisa

Special Music

"What Child is This"

arr. Smith/Hustad

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

Special Music

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Lowry/Greene

Message

Special Music

"I Wonder as I Wander"

arr. Hustad

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

Special Music

"Walk in the Light"

Coombs arr. Thomas

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 for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)**

Generous God, we give thanks for all the beautiful resources you have given to us. Let these gifts bring glory and honor to you and beauty and peace to your creation. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*Hymn	<i>"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"</i>	#153 verse 1, 2, 4
It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to all from heaven's all-gracious King!" The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing; and ever o'er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.	For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.	

Benediction

Postlude

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

arr. Hayes

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Advent Candle: **The Hart Family**
Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Piano Solo: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Vocal Solo: **Meher Arora**

Piano/Organ Duet: **Pastor Lisa Hart & Ruth Notch**

Piano Duet: **Karen Rocchio & Ruth Notch**

Songleaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Chancel Choir: **Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin, Susie Pisnoi, Helen Stortz, Evelyn Weber.**

Announcements

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

12/31/23 Service
 Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

01/07/23 Service
 Liturgist: **Merilee Dauster**
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

We pray for
June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Sue Kinnaman, Shwetha Notch,
Margie Paul, Barbara Tretter, Amy Tucker, Gloria Vaclavik and Paul Van Driest
 Please let us know your prayer concerns

A Look Ahead

12/24	10:00 AM	Christmas Fund Offering
12/24	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/24	10:00 AM	No Sunday School
12/24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
12/24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
12/28	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship location TBD
1/1/24		New Year's Day (<i>office/ECC Closed</i>)
1/3/24	9:00 AM	ECC begins
1/6/24		Epiphany
1/7/24	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
1/7/24	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
1/8/24	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
1/8/24	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
1/15/24	12:00 AM	Martin Luther King Holiday (<i>office/ECC closed</i>)
1/15/24	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
1/7/24	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
1/7/24	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
1/8/24	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
1/8/24	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
1/14/24	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (<i>library</i>)
1/15/24	12:00 AM	Martin Luther King Holiday (<i>office closed</i>)
1/15/24	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
1/21/24	11:00 AM	Budget Meeting
1/22/24	12:00 AM	ECC Registration Opens
1/22/24	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
1/23/24	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
1/25/24	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship location TBD
1/28/24	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
1/28/24	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting

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

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

Join us on this Evening for Christmas Services

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24th

4 PM Christmas Eve Service

a shorter service, geared for younger families

7 PM Candle Light Service

traditional service with candles and communion

15370 Olive Blvd.

St. John's United Church of Christ

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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www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God in ...

In Memory of my husband, David Golland, given by Barbara Golland.

In Honor of my family, Sharon, Erick, Ava & Drew Bauman given by Barbara Golland.

In Memory of Frank and Wilma Stortz given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.

In Memory of George and Florence Camp given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.

In Celebration of the season given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.

In Memory of George Tindira given by Carol, John & Matt Tindira.

In Memory of Roy and Irene Aldrich given by Lee and Phil Difani.

In Memory of Phil Difani, Sr. given by Lee and Phil Difani.

In Memory of Leonard J. and Laverne Haas given by Charles and Marjorie Neubert.

In Honor of our children Diana and Jason Flower and Andrea and Chris Vinyard
given by Carolyn and Byron Golfin.

In Memory of Raymond and Ruth Sontag given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.

In Memory of George and Lynn Hudson given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.

In Memory of our relatives and church members and many friends
taken into God's care given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hart given by Monica Hart & Brian Spahr.

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Spahr given by Monica Hart & Brian Spahr.

Memory of my loving husband Harold given by Phyllis Freiberger.

In Celebration of my wonderful family given by Phyllis Freiberger.

In Honor of Rev Carl and Maryilyn Norton given by Phyllis Freiberger.

In Honor of our family given by Ken & Jackie Ruff.

In Celebration of a Merry Christmas given by The Pisoni Family.

With thanks to Pastor Lisa given by The Pisoni Family.

In Honor of my parents, Wesley & Arland Stemme given by Warren Stemme.

In Honor of my sons, Ryan & Kyle Stemme given by Warren Stemme.

In Celebration of the congregation of St. John's UCC Chesterfield
given by Warren Stemme.

In Honor of our mothers Leitha Macalady & Angelina Amato
given by Charlie & Nora Amato.

In Memory of our fathers Francis Macalady Sr. & Jim Amato
given by Charlie & Nora Amato.

In Celebration of our family & friends given by Charlie, Nora & Anthony Amato.

In Memory of Dorothy and Roy Steiner given by Janis Boehm.

In Memory of Pearl and George Hill given by Janis Boehm.

In Celebration of our church family given by Janis Boehm.