

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

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

"Thine is the Glory"

Handel arr. Childers

***The Call to Worship**

At early dawn, when the light was just emerging and the shadows still long and deep
the earth began to sing a tender and persistent hallelujah.

And the resurrection smelled like death and dirt.

Christ, the Power of Love, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.

At early dawn, with the salt of tears still crusting their eyes
the women began to sing a grieving and faithful hallelujah.

And the empty tomb sounded like weeping and questions.

Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.

At early dawn, when no one could remember the sound of hope
or the promise of a new day rising

the world began to sing a fierce and determined hallelujah.

And the rising up tasted like bread and rejoicing.

Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.

At early dawn, as each day brings forth new agonies and injustices
we gather to sing a grateful and liberating hallelujah.

And this Easter feels like protest and praise.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

*** Hymn**

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

#216

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious king; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

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

Open our ears, that we may hear more than ancient words and idle tales. Grant that the good news of Easter may bear fruit in our lives, resurrecting the perfection of your creation and putting down cynicism, despair, and unfaithfulness. Anoint us with your healing power, enabling us to do good in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Time

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Pastor Katie Jo

**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.**

Special Music

"Rejoice, This Easter Day"

LeDoux

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 24:1-12

The Resurrection of Jesus

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

*** Hymn**

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

#222

**Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the first and last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!**

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	"He Lives!"	Ackley
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*Doxology

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)*

To the witness of new life emerging, God open us.
To the work of new world building, God commit us.
To the power of love persisting, God dedicate us.
For the calling of faith rising up, God equip us. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation

Remembering the Story

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Meal *(the gluten free wafers are on a separate tray)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(In Unison)*

Bountiful God, at this table you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have reached out our hands to receive this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth in our lives; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom and come to worship you with all your saints forever.

God, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*Hymn

"Thine Is the Glory"

#218

Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes
where thy body lay.

[Refrain:]
Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing.
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (Refrain)

Benediction

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Please take your lilies or daffodils home after the service today.

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Amanda Jones**

Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Lynn Potts**

Handbells: **Norma Armstrong, Pastor Katie Jo Bielke, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Christine Norton, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni**

Choir: **Meher Arora, Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin, Susie Pisoni, Helen Stortz, Evelyn Weber**

Soloist: **Meher Arora**

Announcements

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

We pray for

Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina, Rev. Peter Muschinske, Anita Paz and Gloria Vaclavik.

Please let us know your prayer concerns.

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



online giving



News & Events

4/27/25 Service

Liturgist: **Danny Mueller**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Lynn Potts**
 Special Music: **Handbells**

05/04/25 Service

Liturgist: **Mary Polt**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**
 Special Music: **piano/organ duet**

05/11/25 Service

Liturgist: **Kathy Scherr**
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**
 Special Music: **Choir**

... Looking Ahead

Mon	4/21	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	4/22	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Wed	4/23	10:00 AM	Book Group "All the colors of the Dark" Chris Whitaker
Thu	4/24	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship
Fri	4/25	5:30 PM	Trivia Night
Sat	4/26	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due EOD
Sun	4/27	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	4/27	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Thu	5/1	1:00 PM	Movie "Ultimate Love"
Sat	5/3	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	5/4	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
Wed	5/7	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Thu	5/8		Give STL Day (consider giving to St. John's)

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** with coffee and donuts
 10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School**
 10:00 a.m. - **Worship**
 In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

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Chesterfield MO 63017

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stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

Sign up for Activities easily using your mobile phone and the QR codes below**Women's Game Night**

Apr 22

Table Fellowship

Apr 24

Trivia Night

Fri Apr 25

VBS 7/21 - 7/25

Volunteer Now

Movie Day

May 1st

VBS July 21 - 25, 2025

Registration

Altar Flowers

Your special occasion.

Give STL

May 8th

Sanctuary Flowers given to the glory of God

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

In Memory of Irene & Roy Aldrich. Given by Lee & Phil Difani.

In Memory of Phil Difani Sr. Given by Lee & Phil Difani.

In Celebration of our family. Given by Mel & Ruth Kohl.

In Memory of loved ones. Given by Rev Carleton & Marilyn Norton.

In Honor of children, grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Given by Rev Carleton & Marilyn Norton.

In Memory of Verle & Bernice Goldenstein. Given by Dean & Jean Goldenstein.

In Memory of Jim Ittner. Given by Dean & Jean Goldenstein.

In Celebration of the risen Lord. Given by Richard Camp & Helen Stortz.

In Celebration of Eloise Hart. Given by Richard Camp & Helen Stortz.

In Memory of Leonard J. & LaVerne Haas. Given by Marjorie & Charlie Neubert.

In Memory of my parents. Given by Barb Ackerman.

In Memory of Dorothy & Roy Steiner. Given by Jan Boehm.

In Memory of Pearl & George Hill. Given by Jan Boehm.

In Memory of Pat & John Boehm. Given by Jan Boehm.

In Honor of family. Given by Jan Boehm.

In Memory of Michael Hart. Given by Monica Hart & Brian Spahr.

In Celebration of The Notch Family. Given by Evelyn Weber.

In Memory of Raymond & Ruth Sontag. Given by the Sontags.

In Memory of George & Lynn Hudson. Given by the Sontags.

In Memory of Robin Wagner. Given by the Wagner family.

In Memory of Elanore Siennick. Given by the Wagner family.

In Memory of Dale & Donna Wagner. Given by the Wagner family.

In Celebration of Elise & Brock Wickenhauser. Given by the Ayers family.

In Celebration of our wonderful family. Given by the Ayers family.

In Celebration of blessings received. Given by the Ayers family.

In Memory of Tom & Jane Brown. Given by Erin Sash.

In Memory of Hillion Hines. Given by Erin Sash.

Please take your lilies or daffodils home after the service today