

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

3 P.M. Worship

February 23, 2025

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringling of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Mike Scherr/Chair of Search Committee

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

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

Prelude & Procession

"Like a Tree Beside the Water"

*The Call to Worship Based on Psalm 1

Called by God, we have come to worship.

Called by Christ, we have come to follow.

Called by the Spirit, we have come to rejoice.

Called together, we will listen and pray.

Hymn

"Like a Tree Beside the Water"

Like a tree beside the waters,
nurtured by your loving care,
we, O God, your sons and daughters,
your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation
may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation
with you holy, living Word.

Like a tree beside the river,
drawing life from holy streams,
fill us with your love forever;
recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us
by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons
find us in your warm embrace.

We, beside the living waters,
drink from you eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters,
faith that rises over strife.
O Living God, most glorious,
strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise
guide you church upon the Way.

*Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

God, may we be enjoined together this day in living out a shared ministry which seeks to follow the life and witness of Christ. May we covenant together to love one another, to agree to disagree, and to restrain from speaking unkindly of others. Bless our covenant as we minister together and seek to nurture harmony as pastor, congregation, and community. May we witness your gifts within one another. May we grow together in joy and wisdom as we venture forth praising your Spirit. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: 4 there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

11 He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

Rev. Andy Wilson

* Hymn	"We Are the Church"	
Refrain: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. [Refrain] We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. [Refrain]	Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning, sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning. [Refrain]	
	And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying, there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying: [Refrain]	

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	"Here I Am, Lord"	Schutte
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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)*

God of Abundance and Generosity, bless and multiply our giving today that we might make a difference, not only with our financial gifts, but with the sharing of our time, our talents and our lives. Amen.

Decommissioning of the Pastoral Search Committee

Jan Boehm/Council President

On August 7, 2022 you were chosen and commissioned to search diligently to recommend a candidate for our congregation to call as its next settled Pastor and Teacher. You did your work carefully and confidentially, preparing the local church profile, receiving candidate profiles, interviewing candidates—and in the end—recommending a single candidate, for the congregation to call to serve among us.

Receive the gratitude of St. John's United Church of Christ and the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ for your steadfast service.
Let us pray

Holy One, who calls us to many ministries, we thank you for these members of St. John's United Church of Christ who have sought the guidance of your Holy Spirit and labored long in their mission. We give you thanks for their dedication and determination. We release them with joy and thanksgiving, with gratitude for their care for this congregation and the future of its ministry and mission. May they continue to walk with you in new paths of service in the times yet to come; through Jesus Christ our faithful Savior. Amen.

INSTALLATION

Greeting

Rev. Dr. Kevin Gregory /St. Louis Association Representative

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Introduction

Rev. Dr. Kevin Gregory/St. Louis Association Representative

Affirmation of a Call to Ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its leader and celebrates their call to ministry in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our service.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. If one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it!

Presentation

Mike Scherr/Chair of Search Committee

St. John's United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Rev. Katie Jo Bielke as its pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference install her in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Exhortation

Rev. Marty Black/St. Louis Association COM Representative

Covenant

Dear friends in Christ, St. John's United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Rev. Katie Jo Bielke to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry.

The St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ has examined her and has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Rev. Katie Jo Bielke, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that St. John's United Church of Christ has been led by the Holy Spirit to call you as its pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the St. Louis Association?

Rev. Bielke: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rep: Members of St. John's United Church of Christ, will you rise in body or spirit to affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

St. John's: *We, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, receive Rev. Katie Jo Bielke as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rep: Members of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, will you rise in body or spirit to affirm your covenant with St. John's United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

StL Assoc Members: We, the members of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the members and the pastor and teacher of St. John's United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Charge

Rev. Carleton Norton

Prayer of Installation

Rev. Damien Lake

Declaration

Rev. Marty Black/St. Louis Association COM Representative

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare that you are duly installed as pastor and teacher of St. John's United Church of Christ.

Presentations

**St. Louis Association
Missouri Mid-South**

Expressions of Gratitude

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

Hymn

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

#453

Called as partners in Christ's service
Called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing
Side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end

Christ's example Christ's inspiring
Christ's clear call to work and worth
Let us follow never faltering
Reconciling folk on earth
Men and women richer poorer
All God's people young and old
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission
In a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort words of vision
Words of challenge said with care
Bring new power and strength for action
Make us colleagues free and fair

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living
Our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace

Benediction

*Recessional

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The members of St. John's United Church of Christ invite all
to a reception in Fellowship Hall which is downstairs
at the conclusion of this worship service.



Flowers on the Altar today
are given to the glory of God
in celebration of Pastor Katie Jo Bielke's installation
by the Church Council and Congregation.
We are grateful for your service.