

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

"Blest Are They"

Haas arr. Hayes

***The Call to Worship** Based on Psalm 1

One: Happy are the ones who do not walk in foolishness, away from God's wise counsel

All: Happy are the ones who do not stand in the manner of the twisted or sit in the seat of the scornful

One: Happy are the ones who delight in the loveliness of God and God's creation

All: These ones are like trees planted near living water. They give strong fruit in season, their leaves do not wither and their branches spread wide.

One: But woe to the ones who are foolish, twisted and scornful. They shall be scattered like dust into oblivion.

Hymn

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

#130

My soul gives glory to my God,
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me:
Yes, holy is this Name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear,
Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near,
Dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
The rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant
Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.

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

God you are Love--all goodness flows from you. Help us to clear away the things that distract from love's true purpose. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear truth, to seek beauty, and the courage to act as your agents of reconciliation. May this hour together refresh our hearts and minds for the work of your realm. Amen.

"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: Luke 6:17-26

Jesus Teaches and Heals

17 He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Blessings and Woes

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
 for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now,
 for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
 for you will laugh.

22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

24 "But woe to you who are rich,
 for you have received your consolation.

25 "Woe to you who are full now,
 for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
 for you will mourn and weep.

26 "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

*** Hymn**

"The Gift of Love"

#526

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,
 and have the gift to all inspire,
 and have not love, my words are vain;
 as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,
 and striving so my love profess,
 but not be given by love within,
 the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
 our spirits long to be made whole.
 Let inward love guide every deed;
 by this we worship, and are freed.**

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

*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)*

Generous God, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your redemptive work to save the world from inequities, pain, and despair. May our resources be renewed and magnified so that all needs are met and your name be praised. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

Hymn

"My Life Flows On"

#619

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I hear the clear, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

[Refrain:]

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

Benediction

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
 Preacher: **Rev. Kara Windler**
 Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Jan Ittner**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

Announcements

We pray for
Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener,
Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina, Mark Strothmann 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 **Zambia** this week

<p style="text-align: center;">02/23/25 Service Liturgist: Jane Lindberg Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Jan Boehm Special Music: Chancel Choir & Bells</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">03/02/25 Service Liturgist: Marilee Dauster Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Phil Difani Communion: Helen Stortz & Mary Jane Duperrett Special Music: Flute</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">03/09/25 Service Liturgist: Lynn Potts Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Phil Difani Special Music: Violin</p>
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The next St. John's **Habitat for Humanity** build is **Sat. March 15th from 8 am-3 pm, 10 volunteers** are **needed**. No experience needed, the Habitat crew leaders have jobs for all skill levels. If you haven't participated on a previous build, it is a very rewarding experience to work alongside future homeowners pursuing their dream. Please **contact Jim Pisoni at jpisonijr@gmail.com or call 636-675-6711 with any questions**. A **signup sheet** will be available in the Narthex.

... Looking Ahead

Mon	2/17	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Mon	2/17	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed	2/19	10:00 AM	Book Group "Beartown"
Thu	2/20	10:30 AM	Tour of Clark Branch Library Genealogy
Sun	2/23	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	2/23	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Sun	2/23	3:00 PM	Pastor Katie Joe Bielke's Installation
Tue	2/25	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Wed	2/26	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due End Of Day for the 3rd
Thu	2/27	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship
Sat	3/1	9:00 AM	Church Retreat
Sun	3/2	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
Mon	3/3	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Wed	3/5	6:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Sun	3/9	11:00 AM	Movie "The Greatest Showman"
Sun	3/9	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due End Of Day for the 17th newsletter
Mon	3/10	10:00 AM	Lenten Study
Sat	3/15	8:00 AM	Habitat build date

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



[St. John's News & Events](#)

California Wildfires



Donate

VBS July 21 – 25, 2025



Volunteer Now

Pastor Katie Jo's Installation



RSVP

Church Retreat 3/1



RSVP

Genealogy Tour 2/20



RSVP

Ronald McDonald House



Volunteer

Table Fellowship



RSVP

Women's Game Night



RSVP