

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringing 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

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

arr. Lamb

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

Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

May the grace of God rest on us as we gather.

***Hymn**

"Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"

#278

Here, O Lord, your servants gather,
hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross,
joined in love we stand.

As we seek the realm of God,
we unite to pray:

Jesus, Savior, guide our steps
for you are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak,
scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God,
one in love's demands.

E'en in darkness hope appears,
calling age and youth;
Jesus, Teacher, swell with us,
for you are the Truth.

Nature's secrets open wide,
changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls
find the source of peace?

Unto all those sore distressed,
torn by endless strife,
Jesus, Healer, bring your balm,
for you are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed,
filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray.
Send us from above
truth and courage, faith and power
needed in our strife:
Jesus, Master, be our Way,
be our Truth our Life.

***Gathering Prayer (In Unison)**

God of love, be with us in our time of worship as we seek the love it takes to walk in the ways of Jesus. Help us love our enemies and bless those who wrong us, for we cannot do so alone. Teach us the joy of treating others with all the same respect and goodness with which we hope to be treated. May our every word and deed make known that we are your beloved children and vessels of your love. Amen.

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Katie Jo

“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.**

Dedication of 2025 Council Members

Janis Boehm, President
Warren Stemme, Vice President
Phil Difani, Secretary
Monica Hart, Treasurer

Barb Ackerman
Nora Amato
Laura Ayers
Steve Hawkinson

Jim Pisoni
Lynn Potts
Rosemarie Spray
Carol Tindira

Council Pledge:

As a member of the Church Council I pledge to walk in the way of Christ as I emulate the servant leadership of Jesus. I pledge to: directly address disagreements in a timely manner; I will keep confidentiality high and attempt to stop the spreading of rumors; I won't let things fester between me and other members and/or church staff; I will respect others; I will cultivate trust; I recognize that unity in Christ does not mean uniformity; I will not be disagreeable or mean-spirited with others; I will stay focused on our goal of being faithful to Jesus Christ; I will try to solve our problems and not create new ones; I will seek to maintain a positive and prayerful attitude in all I do as I serve St. John's United Church of Christ as a Council member this year. This is my pledge.

Prayer

Special Music

“God of Great and God of Small”

Sleeth

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Genesis 45:3-11 & Luke 6:27-38

Genesis 45:3-11

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’

Luke 6:27-38**Love for Enemies**

27 "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; 28 bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	<i>"Help Us Accept Each Other"</i>	#487
<p>Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.</p> <p>Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become.</p>		<p>Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love, to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.</p> <p>Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!</p>

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

"Joyful Dance"

Tucker

***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)

O God, you are the Creator of everything, but you also give each of us a partnership in your world for a while. We give thanks for your generosity, and we ask that you would increase our own generosity, that your world might be touched by the love that you have created us to bear. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn**

"Pass It On"

#477

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love oOnce you've experienced it
You spread His love to ev'ryone you want to pass it on**

**What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it
You want to sing it's fresh like spring you want to pass it on**

**I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found
On God you can depend it matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me I want to pass it on**

Benediction

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**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.**

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
 Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Jane Lindberg**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

Chancel Choir: **Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin, Susie Pisoni, Helen Stortz, Evelyn Weber**
 Handbell Choir: **Norma Armstrong, Pastor Katie Jo Bielke, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Barb Nichols, Chris Norton, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni,**

Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **Marshall Islands** this week

We pray for
**Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina,
 Rev. Peter Muschinske, Anita Paz, 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

<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>	<p style="text-align: center;">03/16/25 Service Liturgist: Daniel Dolan Usher Team: Larry Sontag Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Phil Difani</p>
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... Looking Ahead

Sun	2/23	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Sun	2/23	3:00 PM	Pastor Katie Jo 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
Sat	3/8	6:00 PM	Bingo (all are welcome)
Sun	3/9	11:00 AM	Movie "The Greatest Showman"
Sun	3/9	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due End Of Day for the 17 th 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>



online giving



St. John's News & Events

Sign up for Activities easily using the camera on your mobile phone and the QR codes below

VBS July 21 – 25, 2025



Volunteer Now

Bingo 3/8



RSVP

Movie "The Greatest Showman"



Sun, 3/9 at 11:00 AM

Lenten Study



Mondays 10 AM

Habitat Build 3/15



RSVP

Women's Game Night



RSVP

Table Fellowship



RSVP

Ronald McDonald House



Volunteer

Bingo

Saturday **March 8th 6-8 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

❖ Bingo games

❖ prizes

❖ ice cream sundae bar and

❖ popcorn provided.

❖ BYOB



Admission **\$5/adult** (12+ yrs) and
a cash or **donation for Lydia's House.**

Please RSVP number of adults/kids.

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

15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccnolive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org