



St. John's United Church of Christ
Worship Service: 9:00am / Sunday School: 10:15am

~ Communion Sunday ~

November 3, 2024

[* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

Words of Welcome: "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us . . . run with perseverance the race that is set before us." — Hebrews 12:1

Organ Prelude: "Pastorale" — Salome

Welcome & Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Pastoral Greeting

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 146):

L: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will sing praises to our God my whole life long.

P: Happy are those whose help is with Yahweh.

For God has made heaven and earth and keeps faith with Creation forever.

L: God gives justice to the oppressed.

God provides food for the hungry and sets the prisoners free.

P: God watches over the strangers and keeps them safe.

God upholds widows and orphans, caring for all in need.

A: Therefore, Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Let us sing praises to our God our whole lives long!

*Opening Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

#136

*Prayer of the Day⁺:

Loving God, what joy it is to know your name. To know that when we call, you answer. When we seek you, we find you. When we long for you, we discover that you are already with us. Anchor our lives in your presence. Encourage us beyond our fear. Remind us of your goodness and miraculous works. Reaffirm the power you have made available and at work within us. Fortify us as your people who give and receive your love to your glory. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer Response: "Glory Be to the Father"

#734

Mission Moment: Camp Washington (UCC)

Especially for Children

The Song: **"Jesus Loves the Little Children"**

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in His hand,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:1-18
Mark 12:28-34

Anthem: ~ Men's Choir

Sermon: "The Greatest Commandment? Love"

Hymn: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" #273

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation for Our Offerings

Organ Offertory: "Andante" — Schubert

Doxology #34

Offertory Prayer

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

[We share an open communion here at St. John's. All who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior are invited.]

The Communion Prayer and Words of Institution: The Lord's Prayer:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Sharing of the Bread & Cup: *(Note that there are grapes in the trays – these grapes are offered for youth who are not yet taking full Communion. We want them to start experiencing the meaning of communion and feel included.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory" #569

*Benediction

Organ Postlude: "Go Forth in Peace" — Birchwood

+ From UCC Worship Ways. Original by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Feldmann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Johnston
Organist/Choir Director	Mr. David W. Hanson

LITURGIST / BENEVELOENCE CALENDAR:

November 3	Camp Washington	Mike Schumacher
November 10	Strengthen the Church (UCC)	Jane Link
November 17	St. John's Scholarship Fund	John Kuhlman
November 24	St. John's Emergency Fund	Charlie Dieckmann



St. John's Prayer List – Those Bereaved *(these names remain on for one year):*

John Moody; Gayle Sarringhaus.

Others For Whom We Have Been Asked To Pray:

Dave & Bonnie Johnston; Nikki Sarringhaus; Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, Grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus); Randy & Becky Schebler; Delores Cornett; Sandi Maxwell (Cancer, friend of Jennifer Huffmeyer); Georgia Haarman; Mark & Lara Mortimer and family (On their healing); Lonna Patton (On her recovery, Pastor Joey's Mother); Robbyn Woluing (Cancer Diagnosis, Cousin to Ron, Mark & Randy Meyer); Dave Raver; Bill & Ella Meyer (Health Issues, brother & sister-in-law to Ron, Mark & Randy Meyer); Velma Placke (On her recovery); Carrie Hornberger (Health Issues, friend to Dale Koester); Trenton Gesell (Health Issues, neighbor to Dale Koester); Glenn Gesell (Health Issues, sister-in-law's brother to Dale Koester); The family of Gayle Sarringhaus on his passing.

Members/Friends Serving Active Duty in the Armed Forces:

Quintin Comer, Kris Freeman, Aaron Gordon, Steven Meer, Ryan Miller, Bryce Timonera, Chris Williams.

Our Members and Friends in Nursing/Retirement Homes: (For Peace)

St. Andrews Health Campus in Batesville: Frank Bergman, Margaret Meyers; Carol Narwold.

Aspen Place, Greensburg: Charlotte Huffmeyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 3: Communion Sunday

Men's Choir Singing

November 4: Sunday School Board Meeting 6pm

November 5: Election Day

November 6 Confirmation Class 7pm

Chancel Choir Practice 7pm

November 10: Chancel Choir Singing

SS Movie (for adults/older children) with Luncheon 11am

Announcements

BOXED POTATO DRIVE:

BOXED Potato Drive



The time has come!! The Food Pantry has once again asked for the generosity of St. John's in donating 350 boxed potatoes in November (for Christmas distribution in December). We accomplished our goal in October for the Thanksgiving distribution to help those in our community, and we know this month will be no different. The Food Pantry collection box has been placed in the back of the church so please place your potato donations there. We'll gather them for delivery at the end of November.

~ Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!!



Sunday School Movie Events

Sunday, November 10th @ 11am

The SS Board is hosting a movie event for our adults and older children. We are showing, "*The Hill*" It is true story of Rickey Hill, the son of a travelling Pastor, who overcomes physical obstacles to pursue his dream of playing baseball in the major leagues.

It will be shown on Sunday, November 10th after Sunday School. Plan to come around 11 and we will provide homemade soups and desserts for lunch in the dining room. After lunch, we will go upstairs in the Hall and watch the movie. This is an excellent family movie and will be enjoyed by everyone! A sign-up sheet will be placed on the card table at the back of church to enable us to know how much food to fix. We hope you can come and enjoy the early afternoon with us!!

Friday, November 15th @ 6:30pm

The SS Board is hosting a movie event for families and friends on Friday, November 15th @ 6:30pm. We are showing, "*The Rise of the Guardians*" It is about generation after generation, immortal Guardians, working together to protect the world's children from darkness and despair.

Please come and bring your family and friends! Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and pillows so you can be comfortable while enjoying the movie! Popcorn & Water will be available!!

SCRIPTURES



Ruth 1:1-18:

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food.

So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me."

Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.



Mark 12:28-34:

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself' --this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Hymns

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty (page #136)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting
down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not
see; only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and
sky and sea; Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons blessed Trinity!

Glory Be to the Father (page #734)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (page #273)

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. [Refrain]

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. [Refrain]

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. [Refrain]

Loving puts us on our knees,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. [Refrain]

Doxology (page #34)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

God of Grace and God of Glory (page #569)

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Heal your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.