



*Do not
be anxious* about anything,
but in every situation,
by prayer and
petition, *with*
thanksgiving, present your
requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4 : 6

October 11, 2026

St. John's United Church of Christ

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness –
using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian
home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship,
prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God
Sharing with the World**

October 11, 2026
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.”

Mother Teresa

Prelude *Danse de travers III: Encore*, by Erik Satie

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn #604 *Great God, as We Are Gathering*

Great God, as we are gathering, you watch your people come;
As yet, we're walking out of step, help us to walk as one.

Great God, within this gathering, quell enmity and fear,
Bring honesty and openness, make understanding clear.

Great God of many gatherings, you make your people one;
From different backgrounds, ways and lives, our journeys have begun.

Great God, as from this gathering we go our separate ways,
We're joined by you, we go as one, to travel all our days.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✝ **Call to Worship** (Congregation reads **bold** print)

Praise be to God, who has brought us here this day.

Praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.

What joy we have in God's presence!

What peace is brought to us in God's house!

This is truly the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

✝ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✝ **Prayer of Confession**

Dear God, forgive us when we get so caught up in the chaos of our daily lives that we forget that you are with us. Help us remember that you have called us to service and to ministries of hope and healing. Give us courage and strength to truly serve you by serving your people.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✝ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

God's forgiveness can change your life. Believe it, receive it, and share it with others. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings

Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9

Steph Pacovsky

Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day, “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Philippians 4:1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Choir Anthem *How Can I Keep from Singing?*
by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Matt Redman,
arranged by Lloyd Larson

Pastor's Message *"The Six Words That Can Save Your Life"* Pastor Jeff

Reception of New Members – Barbara Strokelitus, Jeff & Michelle Hoppes

✝ Congregation: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we journey together in the worship and work of Jesus Christ. May God grant that, together, we will continue to grow in his love and be witnesses of our risen Lord. Amen.

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory *Hymn Selections*

✝ Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer *(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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

✠Closing Hymn #473

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing

Three-fold Amen

Chimes and Meditation

Postlude

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

