

A photograph of a hand reaching out towards a bright sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The water is calm and reflects the sky. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

"By your endurance you will win your lives."
-Luke 21:19 WEB

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November 16, 2025

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**

November 16, 2025
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“All worry is atheism, because it is a lack of trust in God.” Bishop Fulton Sheen

Chimes

Prelude *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* - arranged by John Carter

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn #27 *God of Creation, All-Powerful (verses 1,3,4,5)*

God of creation, all powerful, all wise,
Lord of the universe rich with surprise,
Maker, Sustainer, and Ruler of all,
We are your children - you hear when we call.

God of redemption, who wrought our rebirth,
Called out your church from the ends of the earth,
Still you are Savior, put darkness to flight;
Overcome sin by salvation's pure light!

God of your people, your Word still stands fast;
Do for us now as you've done in the past!
Yours is the kingdom, your triumph we claim,
Challenging evil in Jesus' strong name.

God of our now, all our trust is in you,
Covenant God, ever faithful and true;
Sovereign Creator, Redeemer, and Lord,
Now and forever your name be adored!

Lifting Up Our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

The Lord is continually creating something new

We are part of that creation, renewed, redeemed, beloved.

Through all this change, God is with us.

Though we struggle and doubt, yet God is faithful

Praise be to God who continually blesses us.

Let our hearts, our voices, and our spirits sing God's praises.

✝Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✝Prayer of Confession

Merciful God and Father, loving us like no other, hear our prayer, the cry of our hearts, as we come to you; we acknowledge our transgressions, we confess to you our sins. Show us your mercy and compassion; touch our lives with your healing grace again. Release us from the past, as we seek your face; wash us free at last. — taken from “Healing Grace” Hymn #370.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✝Assurance of Forgiveness

We have received God's love; we have received God's grace. We are forgiven, indeed. **Thanks be to God!**

Time for Our Children

Bible Readings

Isaiah 65:17-25, Luke 21:5-19

Susan McCartney

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, ^[a] for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Luke 21:5-19

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom;

¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify.

¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Choir Anthem

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Pastor’s Message

“First, the Bad News”

Pastor Jeff

✠The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(From the UCC Book of Worship)

✠ Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

Benediction by Christoph Nichelmann –
arranged by Van Denman Thompson

✠ 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 #443

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he will richly repay;
not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows and the joy he bestows
are for them who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go--
never fear, only trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Threefold Amen

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Sing a New Song



***The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of
God, in Memory of Loved Ones.
Presented by Harlan & Eileen Rump.***