



August 3, 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

August 3, 2025
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have.” Socrates

Chimes

Prelude

There is a Balm in Gilead

-arranged by John Leavitt

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn #502

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Lifting up our Joys

August Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

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

Our lives are in the care of God.

God has given us abundance and hope.

This day we have come to praise and thank God for all that God has done for us.

We gather to celebrate God's love and to offer our lives in service.

Come, let us open our hearts to the Lord!

Let us rejoice in God's goodness and love.

✝ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✝ **Prayer of Confession**

O Lord our God, you know us completely. You see us as we really are. You see our hopes and dreams. You see our fears, our anger, our shortcomings. And yet, you love us unconditionally. May this love empower us to deal with and to move past the barriers within us that keep us from being the people you wish us to be. Free us from the bondage of sin and self-centeredness that we may we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our God.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✝ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

“The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and full of unfailing love.” In Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings

Ecclesiastes 5:10-17; Luke 12:13-21

Eileen Rump

Ecclesiastes 5:10-17

¹⁰ The lover of money will not be satisfied with money,
nor the lover of wealth with gain. This also is vanity.

¹¹ When goods increase, those who eat them increase, and what gain has their
owner but to see them with his eyes?

¹² Sweet is the sleep of laborers, whether they eat little or much, but the abundance
of the rich will not let them sleep.

¹³ There is a grievous ill that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their
owners to their hurt, ¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture; though they are
parents of children, they have nothing in their hands.

¹⁵ As they came from their mother's womb, so they shall go again, naked as they
came; they shall take nothing for their toil
that they may carry away with their hands.

¹⁶ This also is a grievous ill: just as they came, so shall they go, and what gain do
they have from toiling for the wind?

¹⁷ Besides, all their days they eat in darkness, in much anger and sickness and
resentment.

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family
inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or
arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against
all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced
abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to
store my crops?'

¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and
there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you
have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'²⁰ But God
said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the
things you have prepared, whose will they be?''²¹ So it is with those who store up
treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

✝ The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

✝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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

✠ Communion Hymn #697

Eat This Bread

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst.

✠ Invitation to the Table

✠ Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right to give thanks to you, O God, for you formed and redeemed our ancestors of old and saved them from the waters and the fire. You knew them as you know us, intimately and fully. We cannot escape your grace and your love so with the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending song.

✠ Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! *(the congregation may be seated)*

Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

Partaking of the Elements

Take and eat; this represents the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, thank you for your love which lifts us, your presence which fills us and your life which empowers us to be your people. Amen.

✠Closing Hymn #31 *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

I sing the almighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant nor flower below but makes your glories known,
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
And everywhere that I may be, you, God, are present there.

✝ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✝ **Threefold Amen**

✝ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude

You Servants of God



***The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in Memory of Mary F. Fisher Michael.
Presented by Benjamin F. Fisher.***