



Lazarus & The Rich Man

Luke 16:19-31

September 28, 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**

September 28, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“If you want to give light to others you have to glow yourself.”

Thomas S. Monson

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn #590 *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with noble zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;
As heirs of God's baptismal grace, his word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God! His kingdom's task embrace;
Redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;
Stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;
And quickened by the Spirit's power, rise up, O saints of God!

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.

We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.

We are here because we want to be God's people.

We want to learn more about what it means to be the people of God.

We come, seeking to be moved, changed, and made whole by the Spirit of the living God.

Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit, and prepare to leave this place as true disciples of Christ.

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession**

O Christ, if we carry the name Christian, we are signs of your presence. Yet we confess that we sometimes hurt people through our pride, rather than showing the way to the healing waters of your Spirit. When we are discouraged ourselves, we are unable to be signs of joy or hope or good news. Forgive us, and give us grace to be earthly reminders of your love.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Bible Readings

Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16; Luke 16:19-31

Lola Machamer

Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16

¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, ² will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence; ⁴ he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day ⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.

²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.

²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’

²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’

Choir Anthem

If We Sing At All

Pastor’s Message

“Oops! I Didn’t See You”

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

✝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.

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 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 #571 *Christ, You Call Us All to Service*

Christ, you call us all to service, call us all who follow you;
Plant in us a deep commitment all your work and will to do.
Fire a passion for your justice, in us kindle love of peace;
Help us heal the brokenhearted, to the captive bring release.

Teach us how to work together, brothers, sisters, side by side,
Equal partners in the struggle, in the cause of truth allied.
To each one some gift is given, man or woman, young or old;
Help us use each skill and talent your great purpose to unfold.

Let us be a servant people, reconciling, ending strife,
Seeking ways more just of sharing and of ordering human life.
Fill us with a glowing vision of this world as it should be;
Send us forth to change that vision into blest reality.

✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠Three-fold Amen

✠Chimes/Meditation

Postlude



***The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God, in memory of Alma &
David Anderson, John M. Aregood,
Sr. and Rev. John M. Aregood, Jr.
Presented by the Bob Aregood
Family.***