



For where two or three
are gathered together in My Name,
I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20

Knowing-Jesus.com

September 6, 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

September 6, 2026
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“If you want things to be different, perhaps the answer is to become different
yourself.” Norman Vincent Peale

Chimes

Prelude

To a Wild Rose – Edwin MacDowell

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn #552

We All Are One in Mission

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

We all behold one vision, a stark reality:
The author of salvation was nailed upon a tree,
Yet resurrected Justice gives rise that we may share
Free reconciliation and hope amid despair.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Lifting up our Joys

September Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

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

Welcome to worship today!

We are glad to be here.

Today we will celebrate the great gift of Jesus Christ.

Open our hearts, Lord, to hear these healing words.

Come, let us worship God who loves each and every one of us.

Thanks be to God.

✝Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✝Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, too often we take you for granted. When you speak to our hearts, offering us opportunities to share your love, we do not hear your voice. Forgive us. We wish to be more attentive to how you are working in our lives, ready to live, love, and serve in the manner of Christ our Lord.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✝Assurance of Forgiveness

God grace is abundant, God's love is never-ending. As children of God, receive forgiveness and blessing. **Amen!**

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Psalm 119:33-40

- ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.
³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. ³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain. ³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; be gracious to me according to your word.
³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. ³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.
⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

Matthew 18:15-20

- ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

✝ 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 *Sunday – C.S. Bovy-Lysberg*

✝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 #695 *As We Gather at Your Table (one verse)*

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet
How to make Love's victory known.

✠ 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 the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, now and forever.

Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

✠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.

The Blessing of the Elements

Pastor Jeff

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

Let Us Break Bread Together, arranged by Thomas Manning

Take and eat; representing 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

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

✠Closing Hymn #595 *They'll Know We Are Christians*

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✝ Threefold Amen

✝ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Postlude in C – C. H. Rinck



*The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God, in loving memory of
Susan Kramer.
Presented by the Kramer Family.*