

St. John United Church of Christ
“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

August 17, 2025

10th Sunday after Pentecost (C)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.

*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

*RESPONSE

“Seek Ye First”

#349

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!***

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

Adapted from Resources

INTRODUCTION

RESPONSIVE READING

The Bible has many verses about teaching and learning.

Now we will read just a few.

***Psalms 78 says: Give ear, O my people to my teaching; incline
your ears to the words of my mouth...We will not hide them
from the children; we will tell them to the coming generation.***

Luke 11 says: Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

***Psalms 25 says: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he
instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is
right, and teaches the humble his way.***

John 14 says: Jesus said “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Mark 10 says: People were bringing little children to [Jesus] in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.

Teaching and learning happen in many ways and places, and for every one of every age.

We teach and learn during worship and Sunday School.

We teach and learn at home and on the job.

We teach and learn in the classroom and in activities, in music rooms, sports, and more;

On work sites and websites, in offices and kitchens, and more.

Every day and everywhere, we set our minds to teaching and learning, and to sharing the wisdom God gives to everyone.

BLESSING PRAYER

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Ode to Joy

Mayleigh Alsop

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER ²

Based on Luke 12:22-31

“Do not worry,” Jesus told his disciples.

How can we not worry in these days?

“Life is more than food, and the body more than clothing,” Jesus told his followers.

But we need food and clothing and everything else!

“Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?” Jesus asked.

No, but we have to take care of ourselves and others. We have to fix things. We have to get ahead in life.

Yes, but remember Jesus also said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.”

Well, maybe we don’t know it all and can’t have it all, but we can remember that we are blessed beyond measure.

Let us release our worries and seek God’s kingdom of peace as we worship and pray together.

God, some days we don't even have any fun. We don't have the time for fun, or the energy. We're too busy trying. Trying to get caught up. Trying to figure out our lives. Trying to become better people. God, show us that sometimes we try too hard. Teach us not to be scared to let go. Teach us to trust you. Teach us that it is okay to relax. Teach us to be gentle with ourselves, through your strong and gentle love. Amen.

*HYMN **"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"** #71

*RESPONSIVE READING From Hebrews 12:1-2
Generations past lived by faith.
Generations to follow also will.
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
And let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
Looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith,
Who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
Disregarding its shame,
And has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."
As Generations past lived by faith,
So we, too, live by faith.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 5:1-7 pg. 596
SPECIAL MUSIC *Blackbird* Mayleigh Alsop
GOSPEL LESSON Luke 12:22-31 pg. 70
MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN **"Take Time to Be Holy"** #483

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON 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.

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Precious Lord*

*RESPONSE ***"I Love to Tell the Story"*** Vs. 3 #560

***I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Holy One, your heart abounds with gifts for us; receive this offering as signs of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, and generous toward your world. Amen.

*HYMN ***"When We All Get to Heaven"*** #525

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *You Call Us Lord*

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We thank Mike Seibold for serving as liturgist, Janice Weeks for serving as greeter and our performer, Mayleigh Alsop.

The **altar vases** are given in honor of my grandmother's birthday **Ethel Lambert & my parents, Charles & Wilma Parmley** by Bev Partney.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of **Karla & Charles' anniversary** from Caslyn & Donna Brandes.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Nancy Jacobs 314-712-6388**. Flower Emporium offers \$25 (small), \$30 (medium), or \$35 (large) arrangements. If you would like to **sponsor a bulletin**, please call the **Church Office at (618) 877-6060**. The following dates are currently available; August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.