

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

August 24, 2025

11th 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

*RESPONSE¹

“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!***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Psalms 71:1-6

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me,...

For you, O Lord, are my hope; my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

As with Gladness

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER²

The Lord is our rock and our refuge.

God is our fortress in times of trouble.

The Holy One saves us from the hand of the wicked.

God delivers us from our foes.

Christ heals us from our infirmities.

The Spirit frees us from the chains that bind us.

Let us rest in the Source of our refuge and our strength and pray together:

Great Healer, we are beaten down by life's suffering. Make us whole, O God, and help us share your healing with the world. Free us from the demons that shackle our spirits, and set us free from the chains that bind us, that we may help break the chains of others. Amen.

*HYMN **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"** #507

*RESPONSIVE READING³ *When the Church of Jesus* Hymn #555
When the Church of Jesus shuts its outer door,
lest the roar of traffic drown the voice of prayer:

***May our prayers, Lord, make us ten times more aware
that the world we banish is our Christian care.***

If our hearts are lifted where devotion soars
high above this hungry, suffering world of ours:

***Lest our hymns should drug us to forget its needs,
forge our Christian worship into Christian deeds.***

Lest the gifts we offer, money, talents, time,
serve to salve our conscience, to our secret shame:

***Lord, reprove, inspire us by the way you give;
teach us, dying Savior, how true Christians live.***

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 1:4-10 pg. 656

SPECIAL MUSIC *Who You Are to Me* (The Bald &) the Beautiful
Song by Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin, Charles Kelly, & Dave Haywood

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 13:10-17 pg. 71

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN **"Here I Am, Lord"** #559

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 FOR CATCH-UP SUNDAY

OFFERTORY

Grace Alone (The Bald &) the Beautiful
Song by Scott Wesley Brown

*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

***God of power and might, in times of trial, you are our
fortress and our refuge. In thanksgiving and praise for your
wonderful gifts, we offer you our tithes and offerings, that others
might know the strength of your unshakable kingdom. Amen.***

*HYMN

"For the Healing of the Nations"

#621

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Awesome God

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We thank Mike Seibold for serving as liturgist and Bev Partney for
serving as greeter.

The **altar centerpieces** are given in loving memory of our
mothers **Elda Sturman & Dorothy Johannigmeier** by **Dennis &
Linda**.

The **altar vases** are given in honor of the **September 4th birthday
of Diana Schaefer** and our **September 4th anniversary Love,
Leroy**.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the **34th birthday on August
29th of Sarah Totten** by **Mom & Dad**.