

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

August 31, 2025

12th 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!***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

“Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.....Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:1-2, 16)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER ²

Sing in exaltation, people of God.

The Lord fills us with good things.

Shout for joy, children of the Holy One.

God feeds us with finest wheat.

God satisfies us with the sweetest honey.

The Lord sustains us with living water.

Let us partake and unite in commitment as we pray:

Help us show hospitality to strangers, Merciful One, for many have entertained angels unaware while doing so. Move us to treat one another as we would have others treat us, whether known or unknown. May we always seek to do good and share from our abundance, which is pleasing in your sight. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#96

*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

“But my people did not listen to my voice;

Israel would not submit to me.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

O that my people would listen to me,

that Israel would walk in my ways!

Then I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.

Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever.

I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

*SUNG RESPONSE³ **“If My People’s Hearts Are Humbled”** #383

If my people’s hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face, If they turn away from evil, I will not withhold my grace.

I will hear their prayers from heaven; I will pardon every sin.

If my people’s hearts are humbled, I will surely heal their land.

Then my eyes will see their sorrow,

then my ears will hear their plea;

If my people’s hearts are humbled, I will set their nation free.

If my people’s hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face, If they turn away from evil, I will not withhold my grace.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 2:4-13

pg. 657

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Prayer

David R. Ekstrand

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"*** #93

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 INCLUDING 5th SUNDAY CASH
PLATE FOR ST. LOUIS TORNADO RECOVERY

OFFERTORY *Gentle Shepherd* David R. Ekstrand

*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

You free us, O God, from self-interest and folly. You bring us into a land of plenty. As we return a portion of our gifts to you, may we extend the banquet table of your love to all. May our offerings bring healing and light to a world filled with despair and in need of reconciliation. Amen.

*HYMN ***"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*** #581

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

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