

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

October 12, 2025

18th 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

*A PARADE OF GOD’S CHILDREN AND GIFTS

*Musical Entry Parade

Introduction

Scripture: Psalm 36:5-7

Unison Prayer of Dedication

O Perfect Creator of All, we ask your blessing on these wonderful animals meant to offer comfort and joy to children and caregivers. May the soft fur represent your comfort and our compassionate hearts for them. May the many colors offer your rainbow of hope. May the lightness ease the heavy burdens of worry. Wherever these beautiful creatures crawl or fly or gallop, may they take our prayers to those loving them, and be a blessing, given in the name of Jesus, who blessed the children and welcomed them with loving arms. Amen.

Reading of Scroll

Song: ***Kum Ba Yah*** (adapted)

Someone’s crying, Lord, Kum ba yah,

Someone’s crying, Lord, Kum ba yah,

Someone’s crying, Lord, Kum ba yah,

Oh, Lord, Kum ba yah!

**Something's purring, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Something's yapping, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Something's chirping, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Oh, Lord, Kum ba yah!**

**Someone's cuddling, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Someone's playing, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Someone's whis'pring, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Oh, Lord, Kum ba yah!**

Blessing

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

This Is the Day

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER¹

People of faith, come and see what God has done!

God has guided us and walked with us.

See how God has protected us.

God has called us to this sacred space.

Let us give glory to God!

Let us sing praises to God!

Let us give and pray thanks to God!

Holy One, we gather to pray and sing your praises! We are grateful for the gift of this day and all the ways you make your loving presence known. We are grateful for your abiding Spirit and the ways the Spirit empowers us to be your people. In this time of worship, deepen our faith. Restore our souls and make us whole. Send us again to share your love and grace with everyone we meet on the path of life. Amen.

*HYMN

"Awesome God" (Sing 3 times)

#658

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Adapted from Psalm 66:1-12

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great power, your enemies cringe.

All the earth worships you;

They sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."

Come and see what God has done;

He is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through on foot.

There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever,

Bless our God, O peoples;

Let the sound of his praise be heard.

For you, O God, have tested us;

You brought us into the net;

We went through fire and through water;

Yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON 2 Timothy 2:8-15 pg. 200

ANTHEM *In This Very Room* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 17:11-19 pg. 75

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***"Heal Me, Hands of Jesus"*** #636

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 *Thank You, Lord*

*RESPONSE² ***"Give Thanks"*** #359

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
let the poor say "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
let the poor say "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us, Give thanks!***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

Gracious God, we come to say thank you for all the ways you bring forth life and wholeness. Bless these gifts, that they may bring forth life and healing in our community and beyond. Amen.

*HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#14

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Simple Gifts

¹Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025*. Copyright © 2024 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

²“Give Thanks” Hymn #359 Words and Music by Henry Smith (1952-) © 1978 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music. Used by permission CCLI License #1334401

We thank Linda Mizell for serving as liturgist and Justin Gibson for serving as greeter.

The altar centerpiece is given in celebration of the October 12th birthday of Dennis Sturman and the 60th wedding anniversary of Dennis and Linda on October 16th by Dennis and Linda Sturman.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Donna Sutton 931-627-2324**. 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; October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Today: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.
Neighbors in Need Special Offering continues
Blessing of the Stuffed Animals
Special Congregation Meeting
Fellowship Hour by Cemetery
Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Monday: Al-Anon, 9:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
Brotherhood, 6:30 p.m.