

St. John United Church of Christ

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“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 2, 2026

Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

Bold denotes congregation reads or sings.

*[*denotes all who are able, please stand]*

GATHERED TO WORSHIP GOD

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC / BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE**

***RESPONSE¹** Sweet, Sweet Spirit **134**

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt, we'll know that we have been
revived when we shall leave this place.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them.

[Matthew 14:14]

THE GREETING *[adapted from 2 Corinthians 13]*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**



PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

How Great Though Art

A CALL TO WORSHIP [adapted from Psalm 145]

L: You, LORD, are gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love;

C: **You are good to all; your mercy is over all things.**

L: The eyes of all look to you and you give food as needed;

C: **with open hands, you satisfy all our desires.**

L: Therefore, my mouth shall speak the praises of God—

C: **may everyone bless his holy name forever and ever.**

***THE OPENING SONG²** *Come Away From Rush...* **655**

***A GATHERING PRAYER**

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE³** *Tell Out, My Soul* **41**
and NOISY OFFERING

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 55: 1-5 [ESV]

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, For he has glorified you.

stand to welcome the Gospel as we sing

***AN ALLELUIA VERSE⁴** *COME, CHRISTIANS...* [vv.1-2] **87**

***THE GOSPEL**

ST. MATTHEW 14: 13-21 [ESV]

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they fol-

lowed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ But Jesus said,

"They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." ¹⁸

And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two



fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SPECIAL MUSIC *One Day at a Time*

THE SERMON THE FREE LUNCH *is based on the Readings*

***HYMN** *Break Now the Bread of Life*

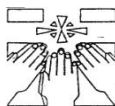
665

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH [INTERCESSIONS]

each prayer ends

L: ...God, in your mercy--

C: **hear our prayer!**



our prayers conclude with a confession of sins

C: **Merciful God, from you nothing is hidden,
neither our earthly needs nor our secret sins;
and so we humbly confess our sins,
both our words and actions and our failure to act;
we have fallen short of your glory
and disobeyed your ways
and we are not worthy to come to Christ's table;
only by your favor do we come
to this feast of salvation,
to be forgiven and made new,**

blessed, nurtured, and strengthened
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *All The Way My Savior Leads Me*

seated, as our gifts are presented, we sing

A COMMUNION SONG⁵ *Let us Talents and Tongues* **698**

THE INVITATION

P: Luke the evangelist wrote that our risen Savior, at table with two of the disciples, took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

C: **In company with all believers in every time and beyond time,
we come to this table to know
the Risen Christ here in the breaking of the bread.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is a blessing to give thanks and praise to you, O Lord our God,
through your Son Jesus Christ,...

and so we join with the Church on earth and in heaven, with
angels, archangels and all creation to join their unending hymn
[singing]

THE SANCTUS⁶ *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* **738**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory;**

**Hosanna in the highest. Bless-ed is he that comes
in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.**

Hosanna in the highest

A EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator and Redeemer of all,...

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was
betrayed, took bread, and having given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,



“Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also, he took the cup after supper, and having
given thanks, he gave that to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you,
this cup is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for
you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

...As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we
proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen.**

Christ will come again.

THE LORD’S PRAYER *is our table prayer*

THE AGNUS DEI [“LAMB OF GOD”] *is sung*

**Just as I am without one plea, but that
thy blood was shed for me and that thou
bidd’st me come to thee,**

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**Just as I am - though toss’d about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,**

O Lamb of God, I come, I come!



[from Hymn 354]

THE COMMUNION OF CHRIST’S BODY AND BLOOD

*All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups
contain white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each
element when served in the pews so all*

may partake together, remembering that in the upper room last supper Jesus said, "take this and divide it among yourselves." (Luke 22:17b)

***A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING⁸** spoken by all



**C: We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.**

**Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and
send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in
the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

***A CLOSING SONG⁷ THE CHURCH OF CHRIST... 623**

***THE BLESSING** [adapted from Is. 55, Mt. 14 and Numbers 6]

P: ...The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE Break Thou the Bread of Life**



Thanks to those serving today:

The Presiding and Preaching Minister: The Rev. Hugh Fitz

The Musicians:

The Organist/Pianist: David Ekstrand

Others: Sharon Fox

The Liturgist: Karen Gaines

Acknowledgments

¹ Sweet, Sweet Spirit © Manna Music

² Come Away From Rush and Hurry © Marva Dawn and Hope Publishing Company

³ Tell Out My Soul © Hope Publishing Company

⁴ Come, Christians, Join to Sing © Oxford University Press

⁵ Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ © Hope Publishing Company

⁶ Holy, Holy, Holy Lord © Hope Publishing Company

⁷ The Church of Christ in Every Age © Hope Publishing Company

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