

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

July 19, 2026

8th Sunday after Pentecost (A)

Rev. Dr. Carol Lange Supply 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 ***Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*** #88
Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN Psalm 139:11-12

“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me become night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.”

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

[And also with you.]

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Great Is the Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

The Spirit of God gave the universe birth!

The Spirit of God delivered the world!

Our God is the first; our God is the last.

No other god invites us saying, "Don't be afraid!"

Let us worship the One who banishes fear, who comforts the trembling and strengthens the faint!

Let us worship the One whose creation is renewed and whose creatures are never forsaken.

Let us pray together:

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our thoughts. We gather with eager longing to know you, ever-present God, and to be known by you. We want to live as your beloved children. Assure us in these moments that you hear our prayers, even as your will is revealed to us. Fill our dreams and our waking hours with radiant hope. May every time of encounter move us to awe and fervent worship. Lead us in your way everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#31

*RESPONSIVE READING

You, God, have searched me, you know all my ways; you are aware of all my yesterdays.

You know my thoughts before they reach my tongue; you understand the songs I have sung.

When I lie down in utter weariness, you come in dreams to fill my emptiness

With hope and promises to challenge fear gently assuring me that you are near.

There is no place that I can flee from you; no other one can pardon and renew.

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; plunged to the depths, I'm still within your care.

Your presence guides and takes me by the hand, showing me greater things than I had planned.

You fill my heart with reverence and awe; help me, O God, to trust and keep your law.

May we each day discern your truth and light, testing my thoughts and seeking to unite my way with yours for all eternity.

Help us this day your perfect will to see. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON	Romans 8:12-25	pg. 147
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>House of the Lord</i>	Mayleigh Alsop
GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	pg. 14
REFLECTION		

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN	<i>In the Garden</i>	#300
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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 *Come Sinners the Needy and the Poor*

*RESPONSE ³	<i>"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"</i>	Vs. 1 #72
<i>Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou has been thou forever will be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided— great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!</i>		

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Thank you, God, for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors. We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God who have not yet discovered their identity. May all of us grow in righteousness that we might together experience the reality of

***your realm in our daily lives, here and now and for all eternity.
Amen.***

*HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

#341

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

When We All Get to Heaven

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We thank Diane Peach for serving as liturgist and Rae Ellen Vogeler for serving as greeter.