

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

July 5, 2026

6th Sunday after Pentecost (A)

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<sup>1</sup> ***"Spirit of the Living God"***

**#492**

**Spirit of the Living God**

**Fall afresh on me**

**Spirit of the Living God,**

**Fall afresh on me.**

**Break me, melt me, mold me, make me**

**Spirit of the Living God**

**Fall afresh on me.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN (Matthew 4:18-19)

"18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

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

*God of Our Fathers*

Sharon Fox

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

The Lord has greatly blessed us

***With all that we need and more***

God has done miracles in our lives

***Beyond what we could ask,***

Or comprehend

***Or even hope for.***

The Holy One has made us

***Thousands of myriads -***

Not just one thing

***But multitudes***

Let us come now,

***Again...***

Always..

***To offer our praise to the Creator.***

Let us pray together:

***God of all life, You remind us that we are more than we think we are, more than we believe we can be, and all that you have made us and called us to become. Come, God, and lead us forward with joy and gladness. Help us see past the expectations and assumptions into the world you long for us to create with mercy, grace, love, and justice for all. Amen.***

\*HYMN

*Trust and Obey*

#443

\*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION

(Adapted from Led by Love)

Jesus said, "Follow me."

***Go where I go.***

Question and learn from me,

***God's way to know***

I welcome one and all,

***Calling by name***

All who, in covenant,

***God's will proclaim.***

Jesus still calls today,

***"Come, follow me!"***

Be my disciples now;

***Help others see.***

Mercy and grace abound

***Within God's care.***

We are Christ's letters now,  
**God's truth to share.**

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON      Song of Solomon 2:8-1    pg.588

SPECIAL MUSIC              *God Bless America*              Sharon Fox

EPISTLE LESSON              Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30    pg.11

REFLECTION                  *Chosen Journeys*

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\*HYMN                      *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*              #344

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                  *Chester Patriotic Anthem*

\*RESPONSE                  *Be Thou My Vision*              #502  
***Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine Inheritance, now and always: Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***God of us all, we incline our ears to know you now, listening, again, for the sound of your voice. We do not always remember to listen, O, God. We do not always remember to listen when you speak to our hearts. We do not always***

***remember to look deeper than the surface. We do not always seek your guidance or follow it. But we are reminded now, and we will listen and follow you to do your work. Bless these gifts this day, that others might know your loving presence in all of life. Amen.***

\*HYMN

*America, the Beautiful*

#727

\*POSTLUDE

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

<sup>1</sup>"Spirit of the Living God" Words and Music: Daniel Iverson (1890-1977) Used with permission CCLI License #133401.

We thank Linda Mizell for serving as liturgist.