

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

September 6, 2026

15th Sunday after Pentecost (A)

Rev. Bob Goddard 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

Matthew 5:8

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

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

What a Mighty God We Serve

by Sharon Fox

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song,

Praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let us be glad in our Creator; and rejoice in our God.

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 & NOISY OFFERING²

“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”

#345

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Through Jesus Christ, we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 2:42-47 pg. 112

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in

common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SPECIAL MUSIC *You'll Never Walk Alone* by Sharon Fox

GOSPEL LESSON Romans 13:8-10 pg. 152

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***"Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"*** #486

PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE ***"The Lord's Prayer"*** (One Amen) #740

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Make Me a Servant*

*RESPONSE³ ***"As Saints of Old"*** Vs. 3 #570

***With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause,
but share your love with neighbors too.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We give you thanks for all the comfort and joy of life, for our
homes, for our friends, and for all the love and grace and***

goodwill of all the people. Bless these gifts we offer to you, that as they are used in your name, we may be a blessing to others. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION⁴

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the 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.

In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contains 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)

*HYMN

"Search Me, O God"

#385

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Shall We Gather at the River

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