St. John United Church of Christ

"In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve"

November 15, 2026 — 25th Sunday after Pentecost (A)
Kiki Cochran — 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 US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

*RESPONSE[1] ***"Called as Partner's in Christ's Service"*** **#581**

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN — 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we
are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one
another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. 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

Take My Life and Let It Be

CALL TO WORSHIP
We lift up our eyes to you , O God
Longing for a glimpse of your grace.
We watch for you…and wait
Trying to keep awake and aware
Trying not to fall asleep
Trying not to miss your presence,
Trying not to miss our very lives
Today we come to you awake—
Clothed in faith, decked out in love,
Wearing hope for all to see.
Come and meet us here, O God
In your mercy and grace

HYMN** ***"We Give Thee but Thine Own" **#688**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION
We are not always awake, O God. We are not always aware. We do not always pay attention to others even to you. We do not always treasure your blessings—The gifts you give to us, the time you spend with us, the people you offer us, the work you entrust to us. We take it for granted, we wander away. Help us wake up, Holy One. Remind us to be aware. Show us the way back to you and help us find meaning in you once more.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*HYMN[2] ***"You Call Us, Lord"*** *#583*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Judges 4:1-17

4 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. **2** So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. **3** Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and

had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. 4 At that time
Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. 5 She used
to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the
hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for
judgment. 6 She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from
Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel,
commands you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten
thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. 7 I will
draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi
Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your
hand.' "

SPECIAL MUSIC *We Gather Together*

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he
went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at
once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same
way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But
the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the
ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one
who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more
talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I
have made five more talents." 21 His master said to him, "Well done,
good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few
things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master." 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made
two more talents." 23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will
put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."
24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward,
saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you
did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was
afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have
what is yours." 26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave!
You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where

I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"*** #457

PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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 *We Remember You*

RESPONSE "***Doxology***" #44

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, you heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
Gracious God, you have filled our lives
With the protection of faith, the guidance of love'
And the hope of a salvation without end
Take our lives, Holy One—Our time, our talent, and our treasure—And use them to encourage the hopeless, to build up the broken, And to heal the wounded souls in our world. Amen

*HYMN ***"We All Are One in Mission"*** **#552**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *We Praise You, O God*

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