St. John United Church of Christ

"In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve"

November 8, 2026 — 24th Sunday after Pentecost (A)
Mr. Lorin Cope — 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] ***"Shine, Jesus, Shine"*** #319

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us, shine on me, shine on me.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN **Matthew 5:15-16**

15 People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket;
rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the
house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that
they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in
heaven.

SOLEMN DECLARATION

We gather, surrounded by the love of God, rejoicing in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and supported by the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you.

And also with you

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

The Old Rugged Cross Trumpet Duet with Jim Simpson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, and remember the stories of faith.

We remember the stories that have carried us this far.

Remember the God who has been faithful through every generation.

We give thanks for those who taught us faith, hope, and love.

Keep watch, for God is present among us.

We open our hearts to God's presence.

Keep your lamps burning.

We will carry the light of faith into the world.

Come, let us worship!

We worship the God whose light never goes out!

*HYMN ***"I Love to Tell the Story"*** #560

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of every generation, we come before you carrying stories: stories of faith and doubt, courage and failure, sorrow and joy. We give thanks for those who taught us what it means to trust you. We give thanks for parents and grandparents, teachers and mentors, friends and members of this congregation who have helped keep the light of faith alive. Open our hearts today to your Word. Teach us to be awake to your presence. When the journey seems long, give us patience. When hope grows dim, give us courage. When we are tempted to sleep through the needs of the world, wake us up. Keep the lamps of our hearts burning brightly, so that your love may shine through us. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, we confess that we have sometimes allowed our faith to become routine. We have heard the stories of your love but failed to live them. We have received the light but forgotten to share it. We have become so focused on our own concerns that we have failed to see the needs of our neighbors. We have grown impatient when your answers did not come as quickly as we wanted. Forgive us. Wake us from our complacency. Renew our faith. Refill our lamps with your love, so we may once again shine with compassion, courage, and hope. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace is not exhausted.

God's light is not extinguished.

Even when our faith grows dim, God remains faithful.

Even when we become weary, God's love continues to call us.

Receive God's forgiveness. Receive God's grace. And let the light shine again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN *"Glory Be to the Father"* #734

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm Psalm 78: 1-7

1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the
words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter
dark sayings from of old, 3 things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their
children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of
the LORD and his might and the wonders that he has done. 5 He
established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he
commanded our ancestors to teach to their children, 6 that the next
generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up
and tell them to their children, 7so that they should set their hope in
God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Mansions of the Lord* (From We Were Soldiers) Trumpet Duet with Jim Simpson

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25: 1-13

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women
took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them
were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps,
they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their
lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy
and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the

bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *"Wake, Awake for the Night is Flying"* #164

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 *This Little Light of Mine*

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

God of abundance, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. May they keep the light of your love burning in this congregation and beyond these walls. Use them to nurture faith, strengthen community, serve our neighbors, and bring hope to those who are struggling. May what we give today become part of a story that will be told by generations yet to come. Amen.

*HYMN ***"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"*** #562

*BENEDICTION

Go now with your lamps burning.

We will remember the stories that brought us here.
We will tell them to those who come after us.

Stay awake to the needs of the world.
Stay awake to the presence of God.

Wherever there is darkness, we will carry the light.

May your faith be strong, your hope persistent, and your love generous.
Keep your lamps burning.

We will let the light of Christ shine through us.

Go in peace. Amen.

*POSTLUDE *Shine, Jesus Shine (Reprise)*

[1] "Shine, Jesus Shine" Words and Music: Kendrick (1950) Used with permission CCLI License #133401.