The Worship of God

at St. John Church

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025 | 10:30AM

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE
ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome!

No matter who you are
or where you are on life's
journey you are welcome here.

Assistive listening devices are available at the Welcome Table.
Nursery (Room 103) for children under 6 with parents/guardians only. No staff provided.
Offering plates are in the front and back of the Church.
Restrooms are through the single doors in the front.
The people rise in body or spirit at this sign:
The people's responses are in **bold print**.
Masks are optional.

Allen Fluent, preacher; Jim Palm, liturgist; Branton Stroup, director of music, piano.

MUSIC AS WE GATHER AND LIGHT THE CANDLES

Eliza Palm, acolyte

As the Deer - arranged by Dan Musselman

WELCOME & CHURCH MATTERS

Allen Fluent

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.
Jesus didn't reject people. Neither do we.

You are invited to visit the Welcome Table in the back by the red banner.
Please fill out the INFORMATION CARD on the back of the pew in front of you and place it in an offering plate at the front or back as you leave.

TIME OF MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Allen Fluent

Our soul waits for you, O God. You are our help and shield.
Our hearts are glad, because we trust in your holy name.
Let your steadfast love be upon us, even as we hope in you.

OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, Shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; Gather us in; our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry; We are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters; Here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, Not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining; Now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Opening Prayer and Prayer for Forgiveness — Allen Fluent

Holy God, you promise us a life full of blessing, but we do not always believe.
You incite us to hope, but we fall back into fear.
You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have.
You call us to watch at all times for you, but we become forgetful and self-absorbed.
Forgive us. Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts, and keep us alert to the wonders you work in our lives each day. Amen.

Assurance of Grace — Allen Fluent

Hear the good news! By faith we are saved, our hearts washed clean. Refreshed, revived and renewed, we live as people reconciled and free, giving thanks to God.
Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Savior, our mighty God and Holy Comforter.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(With a word, a smile, a handshake, an embrace, greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Ministry of Music — Brandon Stroup

All the Way My Savior Leads Me - arranged by Chris Tomlin and Matt Redman

EPISTLE READING: JAMES 1:9-16

(Page 229 – /New Testament section of the pew Bible) Jim Palm

Here ends the reading inspired by God.
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 12:22-34

NEW TESTAMENT READING: BIBLE REF. HERE

(Page 74 – New Testament section of the pew Bible) Allen Fluent

Here ends the reading inspired by God.
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *"TREASURE"* Allen Fluent

HYMN OF RESPONSE, 172 *Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Jim Palm

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

AN INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Jim Palm

The offering of the church is an invitation to all who have gathered here to share your gifts in the fellowship of Christ and to know that all you have to share is valued and blessed by God.

(Offering plates are in the front and back of the Sanctuary. QR code to give online.)

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you pour out your blessing and cover us with gifts of love. Accept these offerings that they may proclaim your mercy and embody your grace. Amen.

Prayer of the People — Allen Fluent

God of abundant grace, **hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Loving and beloved One, eternally present in our midst, may we know your sacred truth, and seek the goodness you desire for all the creatures of the earth. We ask for what we need to sustain us each day, and we pray that we may learn to share the rest. Teach us to forgive, so that we may learn to accept your forgiveness. And let us not be tempted by the anxious days to come. For the power of your love will rule our hearts forever. Amen

Closing Hymn, 18 — *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

Benediction — Allen Fluent

Parting Music

The Solid Rock - arranged by Joel Raney

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Stay Connected at St. John Church!

Contact the Pastor: 859.261.2066 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net.
Submit a prayer request: PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net.
Receive the newsletter, Prayer List, etc.: Office@StJohnChurch.net.

No online connection? Call the office at 859.261.2066.
Typical office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00am to 4:00pm.

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