The Worship of God
at St. John Church
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 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; Melissa Artopoeus, liturgist; Brandon Stroup, director of music, piano.

MUSIC AS WE GATHER AND LIGHT THE CANDLES — Adeline Palm, acolyte
Your Great Name - arranged by Carol Tornquist

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

FIRST READING: EXODUS 32:7-14 — Allen Fluent
(Page 78 – Old Testament section of the pew Bible)

CALL TO WORSHIP — Allen Fluent
Rejoice with me, people of God:
The days of idols and confusion are ended.
Rejoice with me, people of God:
For our Savior has come with great power, and with a mighty hand.
Rejoice with me,
For God has remembered the promises given, and there is joy today in heaven for the lives that have been redeemed.

OPENING HYMN, 247 — *My Shepherd Is the Living God*

Prayer for Forgiveness and Assurance of Grace — Allen Fluent

Create in us a clean heart, O God;
Put a new and right spirit within us.
When we forget all you have done for us and make false idols to be our gods,
Create in us a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within us.
When we act faithlessly, violently, and scorn your name
Create in us a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.
Hear the good news to all who turn sincerely to God in faithfulness: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Song of Guidance, 252, v. 1 — *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

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 — Jennie Malone and Brandon Stroup

Speak Lord - arranged by Tom Trenney

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

(Page 208 – New Testament section of the pew Bible) — Melissa Artopoeus

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

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

(Page 78 – 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 — *"A Love for Lost Things"* — Allen Fluent

Hymn of Response, (see insert) — *The Love of God*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — Melissa Artopoeus

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or nakedness or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (Romans 8:35-39)

AN INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Melissa Artopoeus

With thanksgiving for God's searching compassion, let us offer our lives to Christ and our time, our gifts and our financial resources to support the mission and ministries of the church.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, we give you thanks for the gifts of your grace and the constancy of your love. May our offerings today bring words of hope and ministries of kindness to all who are touched by the ministries of our fellowship, in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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, 433 — *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

BENEDICTION — Allen Fluent

PARTING MUSIC

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - arranged by Cindy Berry

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St. John Search Committee News

Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers as they begin their work to find a settled minister for St. John Church.

Committee members: Dean Griffith, Mary Ann Reilly, Steve Phillips, Matt Specter, Sue Jelinek, and Jan Hoeweler.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Pastor Allen: 859.261.2066 or **Pastor@StJohnChurch.net**.

Rummage Sale News

Our church Rummage Sale on September 5 and 6 was a HUGE success! We raised over $3,000 for our church, which is the most we have ever made at any of our Rummage Sales! Many thanks go out to everyone who donated items for the sale, but especially to everyone who helped sort, organize, display, price, and sell our sale items, and then help us clean up after the sale. *We look forward to our Christmas Shoppe Rummage Sale on December 5 and 6. Think about what you may be able to donate to this next sale sometime in October and November.*

Steve Phillips and Jan Hoeweler, Rummage Sale Co-Managers

Stay Connected at St. John Church*!*

To meet with the Pastor call: 859.261.2066, email Pastor@StJohnChurch.net.
To submit a prayer request for the Prayer List, email PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net.
To reserve a room in the Church house, email BuildingUse@StJohnChurch.net.
To receive the newsletter, Prayer List, etc. email Office@StJohnChurch.net.
For more information go to: www.StJohnChurch.net.

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