

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Thank you for your gifts!

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## Easter Bulb Flower Orders

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter and take Share beautiful flowers for years to come. Easter flowers cost \$13 each. Orders are due to Pastor Muriel by March 22nd. Checks can be made out to St. John's UCC.

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



Luke 6:17-36 • illustratedministry.com

# St. John's United Church of Christ

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**WELCOME VISITORS!** Thank you for coming! Please sign a pew card to place in the offering plate.

**WORSHIP:** When reading this bulletin Leader Speaks Plain Font, Everyone Speak Bold Font

**Nursery:** We have a professional nursery attendant so Kids and Guardians can enjoy worship they way that best fits them! Parents can drop off kids in the nursery before worship or the kids can go down after young at heart time.

**Rummage Sale:** Thanks to all who have brought in early donations so far! The garage is cleaned and waiting for your unused items that want a new home. Special items for the broader markets of Facebook Marketplace or eBay are wanted now also.

Tell your friends and relatives that we can help relocate their extras too.

Betsy Mollway (815-222-9323) and Nancy Lyford (815-978-3319)



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

be shared, not hoarded. Though we have been fed today at the table, may we still walk away hungry for justice, working for freedom and fullness for all of your creation. Amen.

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

## MOMENT FOR MISSION: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Generous God, we bring our gifts before you and your church like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. May each gift of every size bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

## HYMN #575 "O FOR A WORLD"

## CHARGE

Beloved children of God, as you return to the wild wilderness of everyday life, as you encounter every kind of person, cling to the ways of Jesus who helps us imagine a world where love and justice thrive.

## BENEDICTION

Go out into the world, working to make that world a reality this week. Amen.

be, world without end. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE** LUKE 6:17-36

**SERMON** "DISRUPTIVE BLESSING"

## **SERVICE OF COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Now is the time in the service we set aside to remember. We remember Jesus, who named and claimed this meal of bread and wine as holy. We remember countless others who came before us, eating these same elements, inspired at this same table. We remember all those who will come after us, eating these same elements, energized to continue the work of imagination.

Know that when you come to the table, you don't come alone. Know that when you come to the table, you don't have to be perfect.

Come with your fears, to be reassured.

Come with your frustrations, to renew your hope.

Come with your grief, to be held in love.

Come with your apathy, to taste imagination.

Come, all of you, with every part of you. Come.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **BLESSING**

**Holy, imaginative God, you who dreamed and created a world full of colors, textures, shapes, sizes, depths, and heights—help us remember your dream of a world made whole and complete through love and care. Transform these gifts of bread and cup into courage and strength for the work that lies ahead. Amen**

### **PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION**

**Gracious God, we thank you for these tangible gifts of bread and cup that feed our bodies and nourish our souls. May these blessings of grace**



[General Giving](#)

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHORAL INTROIT "LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH"**

**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.**

### **RESPONSIVE WELCOME STATEMENT**

At St. John's United Church of Christ, we are Living Outwardly & Valuing Everyone!

#### **We live and work amid God's love!**

In that spirit, we extend love to all who come into our midst, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities, age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all aspects of church.

#### **Our ministry is to bring the Good News of Christ's love to all.**

We work in God's name to tear down walls and build community,  
**to walk with each other through all of life's circumstances,**  
 to provide for those in need,  
**to offer comfort to the hurting and the sick,**  
 and to uplift the brokenhearted.

#### **Where we fail, we ask for God's forgiveness.**

May the Holy Spirit and our siblings continue to challenge us to do better.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

**By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God's fellowship, you who are broken and blessed, you who show mercy, as God has first been merciful to you.

**In Christ, we gather in blessing.**

Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Generous God, you bless your people in every age: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Mary, children and those who are vulnerable, all who know poverty, hunger, grief, and hate. May we follow your example in sharing and seeking blessing for others, not hoarding it for ourselves. Let us share your abundant life and love, offered to us and to all through the vulnerability and generosity of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### HYMN #530 "GOD OUR AUTHOR AND CREATOR"

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

**We believe in the ways of Jesus. We believe in sharing food, water, shelter, and healing care with everyone. We believe in freedom for captives, justice for victims, and deliverance for all who are enslaved. We believe peace comes from justice, not violence. We believe everyone is our neighbor, without exception. We believe children are precious and worthy of care. We believe, as Jesus did, that we find God among the poor, the marginalized, the weak, the imprisoned, and the rejected. We believe Jesus came, not merely to**

**point to heaven, but to teach us how to bring heaven to earth. We believe and pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

### YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART TIME

### PASTORAL PRAYER~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

### HYMN #204 "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS" (TUNE: GIFT OF LOVE)

### CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows our weaknesses and our choices, and yet imagines for us a life of wholeness and peace. God, who delivers people from their suffering, you sent Jesus to show us that our ways are not your ways.

**You told us to bless the poor, to make peace with our neighbors, to share what we have with others, and to live our faith through quiet actions.**

**Yet we often fail this calling. Forgive us, God, where and when we have slipped into the world's ways of hate, greed, and violence. Guide us into faithfulness once again, for your ways are loving, just, and compassionate. Amen.**

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, God knows our tendency to prioritize ourselves and our groups, but God calls us to think bigger, to see all of humanity as our neighborhood. God will help us grow and mature into loving followers of Jesus who treat our neighbors with love. Receive God's free gift of grace and be at peace. Amen.

### GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall**