



“Abraham Sends Hagar and Ishmael Away”

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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 Speaks Bold Font

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Father's Day Meal with Train Travel Program** Today after worship
- **Community Garden** is ongoing, feel free to stop by to water, weed or harvest.
- **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets every day at 7:00 pm
- **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray is going weekly! Chair yoga at 10:00 am and mat yoga at 11:30 am No RSVP required and classes are \$5.00.
- **Community Meal:** 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- **Nursery:** Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. The nursery provides an alternative space so kids and parents can both get what they need from worship. Children are encouraged to check in with their adult before going downstairs with the nursery attendant.
- **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Please get anything you would like in the July newsletter emailed to Pastor Muriel by Tuesday, June 23rd. (Word or Google docs with Arial font and single spaced are greatly appreciated. Also, please send any images you would like included.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT "LORD LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING"

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

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 broken hearted.

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 (INSPIRED BY PSALM 86)

The Holy One is great and does marvelous things. Delight in God!

The Holy One gladdens the soul. We lift them up!

In the day of trouble, we call on Comforter and Protector, Counselor and Provider, Companion and Peace.

The Holy One soothes the soul. We call upon their name!

The Gracious and Eternal God gives ear to our prayers and listens to our cries.

The Holy One hears the soul. We turn to our God in hope and faith!

INVOCATION

Merciful and Compassionate God, we come into your presence. Be near to us as we draw closer to you. Be near to us even when we have doubts, have given up hope, and have been overwhelmed by our fears. Be near to us as we sing, pray, give, and receive. We praise you for your goodness and worship you for who you are.

HYMN #13 "O MY SOUL, BLESS YOUR CREATOR"

THE NICENE CREED #883

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #487 "SURELY NO ONE CAN BE SAFER"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & NEW LIFE

Listening God, we acknowledge that you know us. You are familiar with our attitudes, behavior, and character. You ground us in the fertile soil of your love. Yet, we confess that at times, we feel rooted in sand. We observe our life circumstances, and hope may collapse under despair, fear may overcome courage, and uncertainty

drives out faith. Help us, O God, when we cry out and when we don't. Speak to us so that your message drowns out any other voice, including our own, that believes less for us than your promises offer. Do a new thing in us, for us, and through us. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, the Holy One has observed, received, and acknowledged your need and your hope. In Christ, new life has been revealed, opened, and modeled for you. By Spirit, the Holy One leads us into renewing and transformative life. This is God's will for each and all of us. The love and strength of God will sustain us through every trial and propel us through our journey of hope, healing, and wholeness.

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 be,
world without end. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Genesis 21:8-21

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "The Makings of a Good Father"

MOMENT FOR MISSION – STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The Holy One invites us into our generous life. Let us bring our resources together in order to support the ministry of this and the wider church and meet the needs of our community and world. Our giving testifies to the goodness, graciousness, and abundance of God. Let us recognize and respond to the cries of our neighbors and siblings with our resources offered in love.

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

Holy One, thank you for the privilege of giving. Bless these gifts and those who give. Enable us to trust and participate in your abundance. Extend wisdom and discernment as we allocate these offerings. Expand our reach and impact for your kindom and glory. Amen.

HYMN #475 "GOD'S EYE IS ON THE SPARROW"

BENEDICTION

As you go,
Speak up for the marginalized
Give voice to injustice
Express cares and concerns of your own household
Make a joyful, hopeful, and grateful noise
And remember that the Still Speaking God is also Still
Listening

And God Heard: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

How to use a QR code: open the camera on your cellphone. Pretend you are going to take a picture of one of the 4 boxes on this page. The camera will focus on the box. Words will appear on the bottom of the screen. Tap on the words.

Fee Free digital donations can now be made on our website stjohns401.org. Follow the QR code and check out all the possibilities! This means no more buying checks and added security! >>>>>>



General Giving



<<<<<<We use an Amazon List to let people know what St. John's needs for our office and different ministries like the Paper Angel Closet and Community Meals. It is always changing. Check it out.

Amazon List



Tea & Coffee

St. John's also has two on-going fundraisers where you can order items and have them delivered right to your door with a portion of the proceeds supporting our ministries.



T-Shirts

Daring Discipleship**Matthew 10:24-39**

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “daring discipleship”? Do images of protesting, community organizing or letter writing campaigns to elected officials emerge?

While these qualify as daring acts of discipleship for the times we are living in, I feel I need to speak of a truth that doesn't get received warmly today. That is, not everyone is called to such acts of discipleship. And that's okay.

It's time for the children of God to stop judging other children of God for what they do and don't do. Remember what Paul said, the body has many parts. We all have different roles to play in the building of God's kingdom.

When Jesus asked his followers to take up the cross, what he was inviting us to do was to surrender completely our wants and wills, our desires and delights, our love of self and need for personal satisfaction, and replace it instead with a selfless love. This love is risky, costly and demanding for it will lead us to places we never thought we would go and introduce us to people we never thought we would ever associate with.

This path will look differently for each one of us. That friend who went quiet on social media is not condoning any wrongs. They are choosing to make this world better by retreating in prayer. How often do we forget in moments of crisis to first calmly give it over to the Lord?

How about that friend who refuses to attend a march? They have decided that for them showing the love of Christ means spending time in a home for disabled adults.

My friends, the cross that we are asked to pick up is the same, but we all have different ways of grabbing hold of it, and we all carry it at different paces and to different places.

In his reflection, “Risky Obedience,” Walter Brueggemann reminds us that when we follow Jesus into a “world of fear and threat and anger,” that sometimes we go as “willing followers” and other times as “reluctant followers, slow to get under way.”

But either way, we are all called to be “practitioners of Jesus’ goodness, generosity and hospitality.”

May today we find ourselves being revived once again to be the daring disciples the world needs — and may we respect the many ways that discipleship is lived out.

God of justice and peace, we know this world is broken and needs our love. Help us to become those daring disciples who follow Jesus on a path of forgiveness and inclusion. As we do, keep us from judging others. May our eyes be fixed on You alone. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)