



September 24, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



\*All who are able are welcome to stand

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude

*“Meditation”*

*(George McKay)*

#### Tower Bell

#### Introit

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.  
I can feel the brush of angel wings,  
I see glory on each face,  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

#### \*Responsive Call to Worship

Remember again the wonderful works of God; rejoice in the abundance of God's steadfast love.

**God has blessed us beyond all deserving; how wonderful it is to recognize God's presence!**

Examine before God the quality of your commitment; come to worship the one true God.

**God promises to dwell with us; how easily we forget to look for God's signs.**

The glory of God fills the place where we are; respond together to God's mighty power.

**God, who dwelt with our ancestors, meets us now; we will feast on God's presence together.**

#### \*Hymn #111

*“When Morning Gilds the Skies”*

*(Laudes Domini)*

**\*Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

**We confess, Mighty God, that worshipping you is not the center of our lives. We prefer busyness to quiet contemplation. We reach for artificial excitement instead of the steady pace of faithful service. We are a stiff-necked people who embrace individuality at the expense of community, yet insist on conformity in preference to originality. Forgive us, God, for insisting on our own way.**

[Silence is kept]

**\*Words of Assurance (Responsive)**

The wrath of God against our sin does not destroy the mercy of God toward all who seek a better way. We are saved for the sake of God’s name, in order to make known God’s mighty power.

**Seek to grow in faith, that your manner of life may be worthy of the gospel. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Creatorex)*

**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. Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson - Psalm 145:1-8 (Responsive)**

I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name for ever and ever.**

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall laud thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.**

On the glorious splendor of thy majesty, and on thy wondrous works, I will meditate.

**Men shall proclaim the might of thy terrible acts, and I will declare thy greatness.**

They shall pour forth the fame of thy abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

**CONTACTS**

Phone 859-431-1818  
Email stjohsucc@stjohsuccnewport.org  
Website www.stjohsuccnewport.org  
Facebook St. John’s United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

**PROGRAM**

Coffee Fellowship Time Fellowship Hall (L.L.) 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.  
Infant, Toddler, Preschool & School Age Child Care South Hallway 9:30 a.m.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**POSITION**

**PERSON**

**CONTACT**

Pastor of Visitation John Robson Jmarrobson@gmail.com  
Director Of Music/Organist Michael Sullivan Michael.Sullivan@stjohsuccnewport.org  
Associate Director of Music Dobin Park Pianist0587@gmail.com  
Office Administrator Kelli Taylor Kelli.Taylor@stjohsuccnewport.org  
Director of Communication & Outreach Kyle Taylor Kyle.Taylor@stjohsuccnewport.org  
Financial Administrator Chris Baker Financialadmin@stjohsuccnewport.org

**CHURCH LEADERS**

**PERSON**

**POSITION**

**CONTACT**

Jan Knepshield Church President (H) 859-261-2567 (C) 859-912-2563  
Carol Fickenscher Church Vice President (H) 859-635-4638  
Carolyn Garriott Church Secretary (C) 859-801-0067  
Chuck Hawkins Church Treasurer Hawkins@NKU.EDU

**Church Office Hours**

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Closed  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday Closed  
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Calls will be answered off-site on days when the office is closed.

### **Hearing Assistance**

We have wireless receivers for the hearing impaired which you may obtain from an usher.

### **Pastoral Care Notice**

If a pastoral care need arises, please contact the church office at (859) 431-1818 and we will get a message to Pastor John Robson to contact you.

### **In Our Prayers**

Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Family of Kathrine Daley, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Family of Roger Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Family of Edna Haverkamp, Carol & Henry Marksberry, Char Scholl, Carol Schoulthies, Bill Seibert, Bruce Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, & Wendy Watts

### **Continued Prayerful Support**

Homebound members.  
Those in assisted living and nursing homes.  
Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.

### **Homebound Member of the Week**

Our homebound member of the week is Bonnie Walter. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Bonnie as our member of the week!

Her address is:  
Bonnie Walter  
100 Carmel Manor Drive  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

### **Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age Child Care is Available on Sunday Mornings**

We have childcare workers available for our infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children. Children can be dropped off starting at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in the Youth Room. You can ask any usher for assistance or information about this program.

### **Children's Activity Bags**

Activity bags for the children are located at each entrance of the church. Feel free to pick up a bag for your child (children) to work on during the worship service. When the service is done just drop the bags off at each exit so that we may replenish the bags for the following week.

### **Audio Recordings of Our Sunday Services**

Did you miss a Sunday service or would like to hear one over again? You can get a CD audio recording of any service each week down on the table located at the North Lobby entrance. The recordings are separated by date so just look for the service you want to hear and take it home.

### **Anthem**

*“Because He Lives”*

*(Gaither/McDonald)*

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then, as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

### **Gathering Together in Prayer**

#### **Joys & Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Response

Sing Twice

## Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. David Schwab

Liturgist: Laura Haas

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.  
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no, Al-le-lu-ia!

## Scripture Lesson - Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

## Today’s Message

*“The Last Shall Be First”*

Rev. David Schwab

## \*Hymn

*“I Would Be True”*  
(see next page)

(Peek)

## This Week

**Sunday, September 24:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Monday, September 25:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

**Tuesday, September 26:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

**Thursday, September 28:** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, September 29:** 7:00 p.m. Delta Kings Barbershop Chorus

**Saturday, September 30:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

**Sunday, October 1:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/World Communion  
Sunday

## Lunch Bunch Octoberfest

Wednesday, October 11th at 12 Noon

**“Welcome All”**

You are invited to join the Lunch Bunch in celebrating Octoberfest with Mets, brats, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and/or cottage ham and green beans with layered salad, bread, dessert and drinks. **RSVP to church office by Friday, October 6th.**

## Youth Gathering

Sunday, September 24th, 5:30-7:30  
Lakeside Presbyterian Church Carriage House  
2690 Dixie Hwy, Lakeside Park

Join us for a regular (but still awesome) meeting of the Northern Kentucky Youth Group. We'll gather at the Lakeside Presbyterian Church Carriage House on Sunday, September 24th, from 5:30-7:30 for dinner, games, learning, and fellowship.

*Thinking of being an adult volunteer with the youth group this year?* We'll have a volunteer training event before the meeting from 4:30-5:30.

## Delta Kings Barbershop Chorus

The Delta Kings Barbershop Chorus will perform a concert here at St. John's in the sanctuary on Friday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. Come and join the fun with your family and friends by enjoying a night of musical entertainment and comedy. The Delta Kings were a big hit when they performed here at St. John's last year. See you on the 29th.

## Park Outing

Sunday, October 1, 5:30-7:30

Highland Hills Park, Mayfield Ave., Fort Thomas, Shelter 2

Illumination Northern Kentucky Youth ministry is hitting the road for our first gathering in October. Join us at Highland Hills Park, Shelter 2 on October 1st from 5:30-7:30 for an evening cookout, games

## Church De-Clutter Day

Church De-Clutter Day  
Saturday October 7th  
9:00 am-11:00 am

All help is needed and appreciated!

Sign up at church or call the church office to get on the helper list.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 29th  
11:15 a.m. - Following morning worship

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*Phil. 4:8-9*

## I Would Be True

*St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917  
St. 3, anon.; alt.*

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be  
2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be  
3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus-y mo-ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for  
giv-ing, and for-get the gift; I would be hum-ble,  
con-stant-ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf-fer; I would be brave, for  
for I know my weak-ness; I would look up, and  
sense God's slight-est whis-per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.  
keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

*The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he taught English before becoming a Congregational minister. Walter died at the age of thirty-five while working for the Y.M.C.A. in India.*

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.  
*Joseph Y. Peek, 1911*

## Offertory Invitation

The wonderful works of God surround us. How will we show our gratitude? The generosity of God exceeds all our limits. How will our manner of life reflect the abundance of God's mercy? Surely our offerings are one measure of our response.

## Offertory

*“Celebrate the Joy”*

*(Joseph M. Martin)*

Celebrate the joy of the Lord with glad singing  
Magnify the Lord on high  
Celebrate the joy of the Lord with glad music.  
Lift up your voice to the sky. Lift praises on high.  
Let ev'ry alleluia be raised. Give to the Lord the honor and praise.  
Shout to the world His glorious name,  
for great are the works of the Lord, our God.  
Gloria, Gloria, Deo. Alleluia  
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Let ev'ry alleluia you sing glorify God and honor the King.  
This is the day for praises to ring,  
for great are the works of the Lord, our God.

## \*Doxology

*(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## \*Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

**All the world is your vineyard, O God, and we are labors therein. The fruits of our labors are yours, but you allow us to manage them for you. Most we use for our own benefit, but today we bring a portion to help others, as you have commanded. We do so joyfully, asking you to bless the work of your church here and everywhere. Help us to be more faithful stewards. Amen.**

## \*Hymn #466

*“Take My Life and Let It Be”*

*(Hendon)*

## \*Benediction

## \*Choral Response

## Postlude

*“Carillon”*

*(Gordon Young)*

## Welcome!

Welcome to this house of prayer and worship!

We pray that your experience of worship will deepen your faith and prepare you for the week ahead. We believe God's Spirit is present in our listening to the Word and our response of discipleship. In our greeting of one another we sense the presence of Christ. May you know His grace and peace today!

**Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.**



Flowers in church today are provided by the Sanctuary Flower Fund. If you or anyone you know would benefit from the beauty and joy of the arrangement, please feel free to take them.

Open flower dates are October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th  
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October is when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we recognize that we are part of the whole body of believers. Join us on October 1st as we celebrate World Communion Sunday.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

In 2023, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” theme continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

St. John's will collect this offering on Sunday, October 1, 2023, as part of World Communion Sunday. We thank you for your support and generosity.