



September 1, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Prayer of Meditation before Worship

By grace, O gracious God, I have been brought to your house.

By grace, I have been empowered to service on your behalf.

May my every word and deed be a word or deed of grace this day. Amen.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome

Prelude

“Gabriel’s Oboe”

(Ennio Morricone)

(Kendra Franke - flute)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship - Adapted from Psalm 15**

Lord, who may dwell in your places of refuge?

Those who are blameless, who do what is right.

Lord, what sort of people do you favor?

Those who speak the truth from their heart.

Lord, we want to be like you, and follow in your ways:

**Neither speaking nor doing ill, but being people who think about our words
and deeds; and most of all, being people who Worship you.**

Let us together, as one, Worship our God!!

***Hymn #59**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

(Hymn To Joy)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for giving us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands to do:

- Eyes to see the beauty of your creation, and the needs of those around us;
- Ears to hear the wind in the trees, and the voices of those in need;
- Hands to do our chosen tasks, and reach in care to others.

Help us to listen for your still, small voice, and to act in love as you call us to do. We seek ever to follow the example of Jesus.

How easy it is to give lip service to your ways, O God, and how difficult it is to follow them. We confess that we are quicker to speak than we are to listen.

We are all too ready to express anger toward others, when we ourselves offend your righteousness and justice. We point fingers to draw attention to others' failures in serving you, when fingers should be pointed at us in accusation.

Forgive us, we pray.

Hold the mirror of your truth before us, that seeing ourselves as we really are, we may turn again to you; we ask through the merits and under the Grace of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! It is with our heart that we believe and are justified; it is with our mouth that we confess and are saved. And by our faith in Christ Jesus we are purified, made righteous by the One who bore all our sins. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri**

(Greatest)

**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.**

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.



CONTACTS

Phone	859-431-1818
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
Facebook	St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Coffee Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall (L.L.)	9:00 a.m.
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.

CHURCH STAFF

POSITION	PERSON	CONTACT
Designated Pastor	J. Martin Westermeyer	Shaman4@zoomtown.com
Pastor of Visitation	John Robson	Jmarrobson@gmail.com
Director Of Music/Organist	Michael Sullivan	Michael.Sullivan@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Associate Director of Music	Dr. Dobin Park	Pianist0587@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Kelli Taylor	Kelli.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Director of Communication & Outreach	Kyle Taylor	Kyle.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Financial Administrator	Chris Baker	Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org

CHURCH LEADERS

PERSON	POSITION	CONTACT
Kyle Taylor	Church President	859-394-5256
David Stamm	Church Vice President	859-322-2426
Pat Goins	Church Secretary	859-250-2830
Vickie Kennedy	Church Treasurer	859-653-2630 text or call

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.	

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Kyle Taylor

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: David Stamm & Bertie Jo Tuerpe

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, September 1: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday

Monday, September 2: Labor Day-Church Office Closed
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, September 3: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
7:00 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting

Thursday, September 5: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 7: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, September 8: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

From the Law of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

“So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

“But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—

Solo

“I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked”

(Geoffrey O'Hara)

(Sang Bin Park- soloist)

I walked today where Jesus walked, in days of long ago;
I wandered down each path He knew, with reverent step and slow.
Those little lanes, they have not changed, a sweet peace fills the air.
I walked today where Jesus walked, and felt His presence there.

My pathway led through Bethlehem, ah memories ever sweet,
the little hills of Galilee that knew those childish feet;
The Mount of Olives hallowed scenes that Jesus knew before;
I heard the mighty Jordon roll, as in the days of yore.

I knelt today where Jesus knelt, where all alone He prayed;
the Garden of Gethsemane - my heart felt unafraid!
I picked my heavy burden up, and with Him by my side,
I climbed the Hill of Calvary, where on the Cross He died!

I walked today where Jesus walked, and felt Him close to me.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Sermon

“Being Fit for Worship”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Hymn #502

“Be Thou My Vision”

(Slane)

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

And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God’s hand.

Offertory Invitation

The God who bears us up on eagles’ wings invites us to participate in the transformation of the world. The church at its best is devoted to nothing less than changing peoples’ thoughts and actions to a more loving way. Contribute in liberality; give aid with zeal; serve with caring devotion. Our offerings symbolize our commitment.

Offertory

“Communion Hymn”

(Mary Opie)

(Sang Bin Park- soloist)

Hungry and thirsty, Lord I come to Thee,
Here, lowly kneeling, Thy sacred feast before,
Strengthen my spirit, with Thy food divine,
As now Thou feeds me
With the bread and wine.

Come to me Savior, in this holy hour,
Shed Thou upon me, all Thy wondrous love,
That I may ever dwell within Thy light,
And come before Thee stainless, pure and white

Jesus my Savior, look with loving eye
As from my heart I make this humble cry.
Give of Thyself, dear Lord, that I may be
Filled with Thy grace, throughout eternity. Amen.

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 Marty or Pastor John Robson to contact you.

In Our Prayers

Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Rona Hater, Chuck Hawkins, Karen Liden, Henry Marksberry, Gayle McAtee, Ed Von Strohe, Carol Strong, Bertie Jo Tuerpe, Bonnie Walter & Marty Westermeyer

Continued Prayerful Support

Homebound members.
Those in assisted living and nursing homes.
Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.
Designated Pastor Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer
Pastor of Visitation John Robson

Homebound Member of the Week

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

Her address is:

Judy Adams
3034 Riggs Avenue Apt. 109
Erlanger, KY 41018-3066

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.

Online Video Worship Services

You can view our online video Sunday worship services through our church website: www.stjohnsuccnewport.org, our Church’s Facebook Page or YouTube Channel (just search our church’s name on Facebook/YouTube) and through the Constant Contact weekly email, (just click the online worship button at the bottom of the page). Hope you enjoy the services!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CAMPAIGN FOR ST. JOHN'S

St. John's is setting a goal of raising \$25,000 to use for buildings and grounds work at the church. The church is in need of some work like cleaning the air ducts in the sanctuary and repairing the windows in the sanctuary. Members and friends can place their donations to the campaign in the offering but it is in addition to their regular offering not a replacement. The Leadership Team will put on a celebration for the church once the goal is met. Please join us in this goal and work together to strengthen our foundation. **You can place your donation in your Sunday morning offering envelope, a plain envelope (just mark it buildings and grounds) or we have placed envelopes in each pew marked building and grounds. Thank you.**

SEPTEMBER SHOES AND SOCKS

During the **month of September, the 1st through the 29th**, we will be collecting (NEW) shoes and socks of all sizes and types to be donated to the Washington UCC community store. There will be tubs at each of our sanctuary entrances during the month for you to drop off your donations. If you prefer to make a donation of money we will gladly do the shopping for you, simply mark an offering envelope with "shoes and socks", and we'll be sure to purchase items on your behalf. Thank you for participating in this community service. Your support of the important work that Washington UCC does for so many people makes a difference.

THE CHOSEN

You are invited to join a “watch and discuss” group for Season 4 of “*The Chosen*”. We will gather on the Saturdays listed below from 9:30-11:00 in the church parlor. If you have already seen this season, nothing can be better than watching it again and discussing it with others. If you haven’t seen previous seasons of The Chosen it will be easy for you to follow and enjoy the season. All are welcome and we welcome your family and friends too!

Saturday September 14, 9:30-11:00
Saturday September 28, 9:30-11:00
Saturday October 05, 9:30-11:00
Saturday October 26, 9:30-11:00
Saturday November 09, 9:30-11:00
Saturday November 23, 9:30-11:00
Saturday December 14, 9:30-11:00

***Doxology**

(Old 100th)

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we know that all gracious giving and every good and perfect gift comes from you. We give thanks for all you have done for and given to us, especially for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Help us, we pray, to use these gifts, following the example you have placed before us, of open-handed generosity and open-hearted welcoming, and to mirror the love so amply shown to those in need by your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #354**

“Just As I Am”
(vs. 1 & 2)

(Woodworth)

Celebrating God’s Word in Sacrament

*Communion is Open to ALL: saint and sinner, lost and found, believer and seeker.
We partake of the bread together to symbolize our unity and community as God’s people.
We shall partake of the cup individually to symbolize our solitariness
as we each stand alone before our God*

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer

Consecration of the Elements

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

*As is our tradition, the Elements of Communion are held until all are served
and partake at the direction of the Pastor.*

Eternal God, you have called your people from the east and west and north and south to eat at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.

***Hymn #348**

(Thompson)

Postlude

(Royal Fireworks Music)

(G.F. Handel)



THANKS BE TO GOD!

Please use trash receptacles located at each exit for disposal of communion cups.

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.

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



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 September 8th & 29th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

September 4th: Cole Coppage

Wednesday, September 11th

Bring Your Own Lunch

Drinks and Dessert Provided

Nominations are open for the 2025 Leadership Team. If you or another member of St. John's would like to run for a position on the Leadership Team, please contact Past President, Laura Haas to express interest. Positions available are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Questions about each position can be asked of current members of the Leadership Team. Please contact Laura Haas with any additional questions.