



August 17, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship

Christ calls us to renewed discipleship today.

He commands us to love and serve all his sisters and brothers.

Obedience to Christ is costly, but he never commands without providing resources.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“O Jesus I Have Promised”

(arr. Albin Whitworth)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**

Why are you here?

We have come to Worship God!

What do you want from Worship?

We desire a better understanding of our lives, more knowledge of God’s will, and a commitment that enables us to do God’s will.

Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #358**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

(Beecher)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Praise for you, comes easily when all is going well, O God. Sometimes, though, praise is a tough chore. We count more mistakes than successes in our lives. Hurts outnumber pleasures. Questions silence affirmations. The signs of the times strike us as ominous threats rather than as indications of blessings. O God, accept the minimal praise we offer and teach us how to praise you more, even amid the adversity. Understanding and forgiving God, like those people to whom Jesus spoke long ago, we spend more time discussing the weather than conversing about truths that really matter. We grow concerned about the excessive heat or cold, worried about rain or

snow, while ignoring persons who hunger for food, long for love, and desperately need a word of hope. We labor at maintaining peace at all costs when helpful confrontation with evil would better serve the cause of righteousness. Then, again, we give ourselves to diverse actions when real compassion dictates efforts on behalf of peace. Forgive our insensitivity, our indiscretion, our lack of perception, our sin. O God, let us feel again the fire of your love and the coolness of baptism in the name of Christ. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, now and forever. 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 be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

(Greateorex)

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 82

God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah
Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
I say, “You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

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
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: Steve Twehues

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Julie Ollier

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, August 17:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday, August 18:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, August 19:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
7:00 p.m. East Row Garden Club Meeting
- Thursday, August 21:** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, August 23:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, August 24:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:15 a.m. Cookies & Lemonade/Welcome Reception

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD!

nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like any prince.”
Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you!

Solo

“How Great Thou Art” *(arr. Lloyd Larson)*
(Jean Nutgrass - soloist)

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Sermon “The Unsettling Character of God’s Love” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

**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.**

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!

THE CHOSEN

You are invited to join a “watch and discuss” group for “*The Chosen*”. We will gather on the Saturdays listed below from 10-11:30am 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! Contact Laura Haas for more information.

Saturday September 6, 10-11:30am
Saturday September 13, 10-11:30am
Saturday September 20, 10-11:30am
Saturday September 27, 10-11:30am
Saturday October 04, 10-11:30am
Saturday October 11, 10-11:30am
Saturday October 18, 10-11:30am
Saturday October 25, 10-11:30am



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

Jesus invites us to put the claims of God’s realm before all else in our lives, to sacrifice all we have in order to obtain it. God’s rule is not only a future promise; it is a present reality, waiting to be accepted by individuals and shared in community. Our offerings and the work we do together are meant to announce and demonstrate the realm of heaven.

Offertory

“Not Too Far From Here”

(Lacy/Siller)

Somebody's down to their last dime, somebody's running out of time, not too far from here.
Somebody's got nowhere else to go, somebody needs a little hope,
not too far from here.
And I may not know their name, but I'm praying just the same
that You'll use me Lord to wipe away the tears,
'cause somebody's crying not too far from here.

Somebody's troubled and confused, somebody's got nothing left to lose, not too far from here.
Somebody's forgotten how to trust, and somebody's dying for love,
not too far from here. It may be a stranger's face,
but I'm praying for Your grace, to move in me and take away the fear. 'Cause somebody's hurting, not too far from here.

Help me, Lord, not to turn away from pain.
Help me not to rest while those around me weep.
Give me Your strength and compassion,
when somebody finds the road of life too steep.

Somebody's troubled and confused, somebody's got nothing left to lose, not too far from here.
Somebody's forgotten how to trust, and somebody's dying for love,
not too far from here.
Now I'm letting down my guard, and I'm opening my heart.
Help me speak Your love to every needful ear.
Someone is waiting, not too far from here.

*Doxology

**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**

(Old 100th)

***Prayer of Dedication**

Longing to serve as partners in your work of redemption, we offer money, time and abilities to you. Please accept our offerings and claim our lives as instruments for doing your will on earth. We pray in the name of the ultimate gift, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Hymn #458**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” (Angel’s Story)

***Benediction**

Postlude *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* (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.



The greenery at the pulpit and baptismal font are provided by the church.

Open flower dates are August 31st, September 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

We thank Jean Nutgrass for sharing her beautiful gift of music this morning.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH

August 19th: Betty Hasse
August 20th: Judy Slater

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH

August 19th: Betty Jo & Fred Haas (64 years)



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

AUGUST COOKIES AND LEMONADE SOCIAL

On **Sunday, August 24th** St. John’s will be hosting its August and last cookies and lemonade social for the summer following the morning worship service. This will also be a welcome reception for our new Choral Director Tony Burdette as he begins his new journey as our Choral Director here at St. John’s. Everyone is invited to meet Tony at the reception and welcome him to St. John’s

The social will take place outside underneath the canopy and we are asking our members and friends to make cookies for this event. Please contact the church office if you have a special cookie recipe you would like to make for this event. Thanks in advance for your help.

HENRY HOSEA HOUSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Good News! We have secured the 5th Friday of each month as our church’s time to volunteer at Henry Hosea House. **The 5th Fridays of the month for the rest of the year are Friday 8/29/25 and Friday 10/31/25.** We are looking for 7 volunteers for each of these nights from **3:30-6:00 PM** to help serve dinner. If you and/or friends and family would be able to help on either or both of these nights, please text or call Pat Goins at **859-250-2830**. We would like to make this an ongoing relationship with Henry Hosea House and really need your help to make this happen. Thank you in advance for helping with this important community outreach venture.