

*Benediction and Blessing¹
*Ringing of the Church Bell
Organ Postlude

*Please to stand if able

**An offering collection plate is placed at the entrance of the sanctuary and will not be passed during worship.



Welcome to St. John's United Church of Christ
Thank you for worshiping with us. We are so glad that you are here!

Rev. Scott Siefert | Organist: Penny Rolf

May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Organ Prelude

Ringing of the Church Bell

Announcements

Call to Worship

One: We gather once more as a great multitude from our peoples and places we've come.

All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving. Honor and power to our God.

One: We gather once more to shout "Alleluia!" Salvation belongs to the Holy One.

All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving. Honor and power to our God.

One: We gather to worship day and night. The one who guides us to the springs of life.

All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving. Honor and power to our God.

***Opening Hymn: "Blessed Assurance" (New Century Hymnal #473)**

Prayer of Invocation

One: God, our shepherd and restorer of our souls. The One who calls us to lie down in green pastures. We enter into this moment of worship gathering trusting that you will guide us along the paths of righteousness. Wherever we may be in the world, let us know the comforting presence of your rod and staff. We are expectant, O God, that our fears will fade, that our cups will overflow, and that your goodness and mercy will accompany us in this hour and beyond.

All: Let us worship you in spirit and truth.

Save the Date – Upcoming Events

Thursdays - Bible Fellowship - 6pm via ZOOM

May 9th - Consistory Team meeting - 6pm via ZOOM

May 10th - Faith and Service Review Committee Meeting
- 6pm via Zoom

May 15th - Traditional Worship at 9:15am followed by
Fellowship and Coffee

May 21st - Feed My Starving Children All Ages Service
Activity - 9am at FMSC in Chanhassen



May 22nd - Photo Day following worship

May 25th - Bongards Market Meeting - 6pm via ZOOM

Jun. 1st - Bongards Market Opening Day - 3pm to 6pm

Scan the QR code to head over to our website for a full calendar of services, events, announcements and more!

Announcements and Messages for the Community

Bongards Market Helpers Needed. A variety of opportunities for all abilities are available. This is our 10th season - Be part of the fun! Wednesdays, June to September. You pick dates/times that fit your schedule. Contact Vicki Moteelall at 612-710-0508.

Looking for a church family? If you have been led to St. John's looking to be more than a visitor, we welcome you openly to our family and would love an opportunity to chat. Contact Pastor Scott.

For Pastoral Care. Please contact Pastor Scott at 804-350-0826 or email pastorsjucbongards@gmail.com.

¹ <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-4-may-8-2022/>

Prayer of Confession

One: God, as you call us more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence. Let us acknowledge the ways our unbelief has separated us from your vision for our lives and all creation.

All: God we confess that we often let hopelessness have too much power over our lives. In the face of crisis, our faith has frequently faltered. In the midst of calamity, our fearlessness has faded.

One: In the presence of tribulation, our worry has weakened our ability to act justly.

All: Bring us back to you, Great Redeemer.

One: Remind us of the unfailing treasure that is your love and care for all of creation. For your grace is sufficient, from the valley of death to the tables you've prepared for us.

All: Embolden us, again, and revive our spirits.

—Time of Silent Confession—

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, hear the Good News: God believes in us even when our belief in God is challenged. God's grace and mercy abounds, and in God and Christ, we are forgiven.

Scripture Lesson and Message

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 (KJV)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Message to the Children

Second Scripture Reading: Acts 9:36-43 (NRSV)

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us

without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Pastoral Meditation: "Lie Down and Get Up"

Hymn of Response: "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (New Century Hymnal #252)

Prayers and Concerns

Joys – Concerns – Blessings

Please share any special concerns, joys, and blessings.

Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer – Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

Presentation of the Offering**

***Invitation to the Offering**

One: We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with our God and with our neighbors.

***Hymn:** "Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow" (The Hymnal #551)

***Dedication Prayer (in unison)**

All: We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a sign of our belief in a God who saves, heals, and sets free. Let these gifts, and the works of our hands and feet, be a blessing to all in need.

Closing and Blessing

***Closing Hymn:** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" (The Hymnal #35)