



# St. John's United Church of Christ

May 12, 2024

**Mother's Day**

“Evaluation Forms”

## **INTROIT**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Liturgist)

A friendly welcome to all! No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here.

## **BELLS TO WELCOME THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

## **PRELUDE**

Jorian Johnson, Soloist

## **\*OPENING WORDS**

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” (Isaiah 2:3)

**\*SONG OF THE MORNING: #423** “Great Is Your Faithfulness” Black Hymnal

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Liturgist: We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,*

**People: who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally,**

*Liturgist: teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.*

**People: Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (In Unison)**

**Gracious and good God, we come to you this morning with deep thanks for our mothers and for every woman who has embraced the miracle of life with You. Please empower all mothers with courage for the surprises and wonders of parenting. Grant them resilience and love in their motherhood, supported by their families and friends, as they nurture their children’s growth. Let them find joy in their children and wisdom to seek Your guidance in their moments of need. Fill their hearts with love and gladness. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Jorian Johnson, Soloist

**A TIME FOR ALL KIDS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER: (In Unison)**

**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, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**A TIME TO RECOGNIZE MOTHERS**

Becky Pierce

**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 17:6-19

**SILENT PREPARATION FOR LISTENING**

We invite you to use these few moments of silence to welcome the Inner Teacher to speak to you as Don shares the morning message.

**SERMON**

“Evaluation Forms”

Don Crist

**OFFERTORY INVITATION** (Liturgist)

*Christians sometimes bring peace in the midst of turmoil. At other times, we disturb the peace with our work for justice and our championing of the oppressed. As we pool the resources God has given us, we become a powerful influence for good. Our offerings proclaim our faith. Let us give faithfully.*

**OFFERTORY**

“Andante Religioso”

Johann Rinck

**\*DOXOLOGY:** (In Unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, Ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATION PRAYER:** (In Unison)

**With joy and gladness we dedicate our gifts to the service of Jesus Christ. May the abused find solace and courage; abusers be led to new awareness, sensitivity, and change; prisoners know release from bondage; and all humankind be led to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer ourselves with these gifts. Use us as ambassadors of your love. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #393**

“Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

(Black Hymnal)

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Exaltation”

Robert J. Hughes

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**God is Still Speaking,**

***St. John's United Church of Christ***

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**Serving Us Today**

Disciples: All Members

Organist: Ginny Beamish

Minister: Don Crist

Altar Decorations: Becky Pierce

Liturgist: Mike Beamish

Head Usher: Mike Beamish

Choir Director: Becky Pierce

Counters: Mike Beamish & John Gibbon

**ANNOUCEMENTS**

**Welcome Back Jorian!**

A very special thank you to Jorian Johnson for blessing us today with special music!

**Welcome Baby Ellia!**

The rose on the altar this morning celebrates the birth of Ellia Joy Gibbons, who arrived at 2:50 a.m. on May 4, weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. She is welcomed by the whole Gibbons family: parents Erin and Doug, big brother Dean, and grandparents John and Barbara.

**FISH**

May is FISH month for St. John's United Church of Christ. FISH is an organization in Miami County helping with rent, utilities, food, gas or other needs. Your donation is

greatly appreciated and your money stays in this community. Envelopes are in the narthex.

### **Congregational Meeting**

More than a hundred years ago, our forbearers purchased and entrusted to future generations the Carnegie pipe organ which sits at the front of our sanctuary. It was last refurbished in the 1950s, and now needs some attention. To that end, we will meet as a congregation after worship on Sunday, May 19, to discuss its future. As all of who have recently had anything repaired know, replacing and upgrading parts are often costly, and this case is no exception. We are looking at an estimate of \$95,000 to modernize the organ and ready it for generations to come. Please join us for this discussion and decision.

### **Strengthen the Church**

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, we will receive our Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering, another one of our Five for Five offerings. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Please indicate your gift on the fourth line of your giving envelope, or use the special envelope you will find in the narthex.

### **Ladies Fellowship**

Ladies Fellowship will meet May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00am at the church. We will go to a restaurant in Troy for lunch. Come and bring ideas of places to eat each month. Hope to see you!

### **Adult Sunday School**

Join us next Sunday in the cafe for Adult Sunday School at 9:30am. Mike Beamish will be leading us in the topic "Simple Church – Focusing on What is Important"

## **PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

Brent Adkins: Brent is now home and improving slowly.

Wayne and Gretchen Cunningham: Stephanie Strobe's parents continue to battle health issues. Both have experienced some improvement of late but face long roads. Please keep them in your prayers.

Mary Ann Crist: Please keep Mary Ann in your prayers while she recovers from her surgery at home.

Pat Eichhorn: Please pray for Pat, she is ill

Em Finney: Em Finney ended her earthly journey on May 8, and is now, to quote her husband, "Chasing the angels." She valiantly battled her cancer for more than 30 years and we rejoice that she suffers no more and that her eternal life has begun. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Michael Ham: Michael appreciates our prayers and reports that he "needs all the prayers he can get". He also, sadly, reports that his health continues to decline with bad days now outnumbering the good days.

Joyce Heffelfinger and Karen Spear: It was great to see both of these ladies in church last Sunday! As both continue their progress, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for how far they've come!

Glenn Lytle: Glenn is home and is continuing to gain strength and energy. He was even able to stop in for a minute at the rummage sale! Please continue to keep him in your prayers as progress continues.

Erika, Logan and Brianna Wilson: Please pray for Sharon's grandchildren that they may know the love, peace and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Remember our homebound in your thoughts and prayers. Cards are welcome:

Beulah Bowers: 1220 N Dorset, Troy, OH 45373

Carletta Gritmaker: 2896 West Main Street, Troy, OH 45373

Joan Meredith: Lakeview Wing #213, 1567 Garbry Road, Piqua, OH 45356

### **May at St. John's**

Wednesday, May 1

***Carletta Gritmaker's Birthday***

10:00am

History Team

6:00pm

Choir

Thursday, May 2-Saturday, May 4 Rummage Sale (Th 4p-8p, Fri 9a-12p & Sat 9a-12p)

Wednesday, May 4

***Erika Wilson's Birthday***

Sunday, May 5

***Diane Gerhart's Birthday***

9:30am

Adult Sunday School

10:30am

Worship



