



St. John's Chapel
United Church of Christ
4344 S. Fremont Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804-7306
www.stjohnschapel.org

Liturgist: Loy Swanson

September 11, 2011

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 A.M.

(Denotes when all who are able to please stand.)*

Gathering

Meditative Prelude

played by Kyle Aho

Welcome to Worship! As the congregation gathers, we invite you to take the time to center yourself in silence, asking what it is that brings you to worship today. Reading today's Scripture may prove a good and enjoyable way to guide you in your preparation. It is Matthew 18:12-35 . You will find it on pages p.895-896 in the Pew Bible.

Lighting of Candles

Ringling of Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Celebration**

- One: Come if you have a weak faith.
Come if you are convinced in the strength of your convictions.
Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.
- All: Lead us into life, O God!**
- One: Come if you are chased by the demands of others.
Come if you feel threatened by a loss of security.
Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.
- All: Lead us into life, O God!**
- One: Come if you need forgiveness.
Come if you need strength to forgive others.
Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.
- All: Lead us into life, O God!**

***Hymn** "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" # 433

Opening Prayer

Hymn " He Leadeth Me" # 99

Confession

One: Jesus challenges us to seek forgiveness for ourselves and to forgive those who have sinned against us.
Let us pray.

Holy God, when we seek security only in military and economic forces and not in knowledge of your presence;
when we become concerned with our well-being only
and so fail to see the consequences of our choices upon the lives of others:

**All: Forgive our narrow worldview;
open our eyes to see others as persons
with whom we are connected in the web of life.**

One: When we rejoice in the downfall and defeat of our enemies:

**All: Forgive our misplaced loyalties; open our hearts to see our
enemies as our sisters and brothers in your family.**

One: When we fail to forgive others, and allow ourselves to be caught in the mire of grudges held:

All: Forgive our rancor; open us to reconciliation.

One: When we are faced with a sea of trouble, whether of our own making or cast upon us by the action of others:

**All: God of Life, part the waters of regret and revenge and
lead us onto the dry ground of forgiveness.**

Silent Meditation and Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God is compassionate and does not deal with us according to our sins, but casts them as far as far away from us as the east is from the west.

Free of the mistakes of the past, we can begin again.

All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

("Glory Be to the Father" No. 9 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Please be seated.

Children's Time

Tona Rowett

(Children will exit the sanctuary after Children's Time)

Anthem

"Agnus Dei"

By Eugene Butler

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us

Scripture Reading

New Testament: Romans 14:1-12 Loy Swanson p.1034-1035

Gospel Matthew 18:12-35 Liz Stafford p.895-896

New Testament James 1:2-8 Loy Swanson p.1100

Sermon

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Liz Stafford

***Hymn**

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

#600

Commemorative Candle Lighting

One: Let us pray.

Almighty God,

you delivered your ancient people from slavery and, in the fullness of time, sent Jesus the Christ to show us the path through forgiveness to newness of life. As we remember the events of September 11, 2001 and the decade of war since, we find ourselves caught between memories that haunt us and the hope that comes from you. Mere mention of the date launches a myriad of thoughts, images and emotions. For some the events are still very fresh, while for others there is a greater distance. Hear us as we pray deliverance for people whose lives were affected on that day or since.

One: Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Let our cry come to you.

We remember the innocent victims who died that day or since
and our hearts are moved to grief.

We are mindful of broken families, orphans, co-workers and friends who grieve
still.

We lift our prayers for all who grieve.

Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Let our cry come to you.

We remember the selfless women and men who bravely served as first
responders,

some of whom died or were injured in the process of serving.

We thank you for them and for all who contributed toward recovery
at Ground Zero in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C.,
in a field near Shanksville, PA or anywhere around the globe
where people gathered to comfort or to pray for others.

We lift our prayers for their healing, safety and well-being, for their families,
and for their civic and faith communities.

Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Let our cry come to you.

We remember the selfless men and women
who bravely serve through the Armed Forces

in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the globe;

we remember the sacrifices of those who have died or were wounded
in the process of serving. We thank you for them and their service.

We lift our prayers for their healing, safety and well-being,
for their families and for their civic and faith communities.

Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Let our cry come to you.

War is never an easy choice.

We as a nation are still conflicted about that decision.

Some of us believe that war is never justified,
others feel deceived,
some others believe a military response is exactly right
and some of us just don't know.
Help us bring an end to war as we work for peace with justice
in ways that are peaceful.
Hear our prayer for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Let our cry come to you.

In these ten years, much has been done
in the name of religious zeal or patriotic fervor
that makes a mockery of your name.
Our actions have not always been the most honorable.
We have killed non-combatant civilians
and sent others fleeing from their homeland as refugees.
Deliver us from our own desire for revenge.
Deliver us from faith that fails to see your image in others,
from willing bondage to our own thoughts and desires
and from our reluctance to enter your beloved community.

Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Lead us into the land of promise.

We are conflicted internally.
We pledge allegiance to our nation, while at other times we surrender all to
you.
Deliver us from fragmentary living, from divided aims and rival loyalties,
and from failure to seek and achieve wholeness in thought, word, and deed.
Teach us to remember the words of Jesus.

All: "Seek first the kingdom of God and all else will be added to you."

Deliver us from counterfeit humility, from the modesty that calls attention to
itself,
from the arrogance which creates the world in our own image,
and will not bow to the authority of truth as it is revealed to us.
Deliver us from religious selfishness,
from the piety that is centered upon safety rather than service,

from seeking peace of mind instead of reconciliation with you and all people.
We lift our prayers for better understanding among all people,
especially Christian-Muslim relations.

Hear our prayer, O God.

All: Save us from ourselves.

While we cannot imagine what would cause persons
to commit such violent acts of terrorism,
we know you call us to forgive.
Move in our hearts to lead us to that place of radical generosity and love.

Teach us to remember the words of Jesus.

All: “Forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Most of all, dear God, move us from despair to hope,
from isolation to community, from war to peace, from death to life,
grounded in our relationship with you and your people in every tribe and
nation,
every kindred and tongue
so that together we might build your beloved community on earth as it is in
heaven.

Teach us to remember the words of Jesus.

**All: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your
soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength and you shall love
your neighbor as yourself .”**
To you, O God, be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

Choral Response

***Offering Statement**

Offertory

“Prayer Of St. Gregory”
Danny Pace, trumpet & Kyle Aho, organ

By Hovhanness

***Doxology and Dedication Prayer** ("Praise God" No. 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

***Hymn:** "Be Still And Know" No.630

***Blessing**

***Congregational Response** "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" 1st verse only #304

Postlude "Glorious Freedom" by Judson

SABBATICAL REUNION PARTY
Pastor Becky is almost here. Plan to attend the Reunion Party right after morning worship on September 25. Dress casually that day so that you are ready to enjoy good friends, good food, and a good time. Please invite former members, members we have not seen in a while, family , and friends.

Our Stewardship for Sunday, September 4, 2011
Worship 65 Offering: \$2797.00
The average weekly offering needed to meet annual budget is \$2,423.00

September 11, 2011
Jim May & Dennis Gromer will open the church in September

TODAY:	Worship.....	10:30 am
	Liz Stafford Preaching	
	Independent Women meet at Mr. Yen's	
Monday	BOSM.....	6:00 pm
Tuesday	Fish Day	
	Brotherhood	8:00 am
	Grace & Weight.....	5:30 pm
Wednesday	Choir Practice.....	7:00 pm
Thursday	Council.....	6:30 pm
Sunday	Jeff Whitman Preaching.....	10:30 am

Keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Members:

Earl Reed– He has suffered a heart attack. He has good days and bad days. Pray for him and for Irene. They are waiting for his medicine to take affect. He is in Cox South. The family is requesting no visitors at this time.

Phil Scafè– He had an MRI and was found to be cancer free. What a blessing!

Sgt. Matthew Gromer–Pray for him and his family. He is overseas now.

Joyce Scroggs– She is doing better. She is at home. Visitors are appreciated.

Eleanor Lockhart– She is still undergoing treatments.

Please Contact our members who find it difficult to attend:

Virginia Shean–Ozark Nursing Care , 1486 N. Riverside Road Ozark, Mo. 65721

Virginia Steury– 1820 Plaza Drive, Nixa, Mo. 65714-9437

Flo Valentine–Ravenwood Asst. Living,1950 E. Republic Road #16,Spfd.,MO 07

Family and Friends:

Diane Bender's Father– Her father passed away. Pray for the family.

Bailee Wenniham– Granddaughter of a friend of Nancy Anderson's. She is 15 yrs. old. She is doing better

Katie Kobberman– Katie is Jack & Karli Rowett's aunt on their mom's side. She is undergoing testing at the Mayo Clinic. She will be in Rochester, MN. for the remainder of August and September. Pray for safe travel for Katie and her mother Rose, and that the Dr's find a manageable approach to address her issues.

Jennie Sauer– Friend of Nancy Anderson. She has a bacterial infection.

Peggy Gilbert: (She is a friend of Tona Rowett and Pray her medication is working to keep her cancer under control.

It Is Crop Walk Time Again!

It is that time of year again ;time to support the Crop Walk. Come see Nancy Anderson at her information table in the Narthex. Come to the Crop Walk Pasta Dinner on September 18th after the worship service. Help us help hungry people both locally and worldwide

**The
Inde-
pendent
Women
meet
today at
Mr. Yen's
at
1:00 P.M.**

Koinonias Will Meet

The Koinonias will meet, Saturday, September 17th at Pete and Beverly Graham's house. Meet around 5:00 P.M. and dinner will be at 6:00. Meat is provided, so bring a side dish or dessert. All are invited! The address is 725 W. Montclair St. 65807, and the phone number is 881-3034