



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

Liturgist: Eleanor Berger

September 20, 2009

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:30 A.M.

(All who are able, please stand.)*

Gathering

Meditative Music

As we gather for worship we invite you to observe silence and enter into reflection.

The theme of today's worship will focus on Jesus' standard for achieving greatness. You might want to read and reflect on Mark 9: 30-37.

Space to write down your thoughts: _____

Or you may wish to come forward and light a candle at the communion table to symbolize the concerns or joys you carry with you to worship, or whatever is on you heart and mind. Or you may spend time reflecting on this where you are, or if you reflect better walking, walk around the sanctuary and reflect on images you encounter.

Meditative Hymn

"I Am Thine, O Lord"

No. 473

Acolyte:

Sadie Harper

Choral Introit

"Sing to the Lord"

Erickson

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymns of Praise

“Ye Servants of God”

No. 153

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

“Children of God”

1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;
2 For God whom Je - sus loved has - tru - ly spo - ken:
3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple
4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm - y clan - gor

where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;
the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless
of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;
of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;

To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,
Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,
So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,
Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,

each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.
and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.
each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.
and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

Call to Confession

Silent Meditation and Personal Confession

During this time of inward reflection and repentance, you may want to use the "Examen," which simply means an examining of our lives in a prayerful way. It is different from a prayer of confession in that it reviews both the good and the bad of our lives. You pause to look back over your week, or as many days as you wish to examine, and notice where you have partnered with God. In other words, when were you trying to do it alone and when did you ask God to assist you? You can also remember the events, encounters or insights that felt like gifts from God and those that did not. Or remember the times in the day when you gave and received love, and when you did not give or receive love. Once your days are reviewed and examined, you may journal what you uncovered, or simply imagine offering your insight up to God to let God love you just as you are.)

***Words of Assurance**

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

Honored Lay Woman Recognition

Judith Bartell

Children's Time

Written by: Rev. Bonnie Tarwater

Children Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

Verse 1, No. 738

(Children may exit for Children's Choir)

Reading of Holy Scripture

Mark 9: 30-37

p. 920

James 3: 13 4:3, 7-8a

p. 1101

Anthem

"Jacob's Ladder"

Gilbert Martin

Sermon

"First in Caring"

The Rev. Dale Parson

***Hymn**

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

No.209

Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer (using debt and debtors) **& Choral Response**

(During this time of prayer there will be times of silence for you to reflect, to talk with God and to listen for the still small voice of God.)

Pastor: God, show us Your way. Enable us to look beyond the challenges of the present moment and take the longer look. Lift our vision up to eternity, so that we might see Your purposes being worked out among us.

Silence

Having seen Your way, give us the courage to follow the tinkling bell in the distance calling to us to move in step with Your grand purpose.

Silence

Teach us the humility that is ambitious for others and that overcomes

jealously and selfish ambition. Give us the wisdom that is from above to recognize true greatness.

Silence

Give us the wisdom that is peaceable. Give us the wisdom to be gentle. Give us the wisdom that is open to reason. Give us the wisdom that is full of mercy and good fruits. Give us the wisdom that is sincere. Make us peacemakers seeking a harvest of righteousness, sown in peace.

Silence

We come to You, O God, with mixtures of joy, happiness, hurt, anxiety, and expectation. May each, according to the most personal need, find solace by sharing this service. Whatever they may be asking of You, we trust always that Your response will be to their highest wellbeing.

Silence

To this end, we commit our prayers and commit these people to Your care. For the One who once walked among us and still lives among us to reveal Your boundless presence, we pray the prayer he taught us saying: Our Father who art in heaven . . .

Offering

“How Beautiful”

John Carter

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

***Hymn**

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

***Benediction**

Unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, faith-ful their whole lives
2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them
3 They lived not on-ly in a- ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands

through, who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died for the God they
strong. They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake, lived just-ly their
still. The world is filled with liv-ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and an -
 whole lives long. And one was a proph - et, and one was a priest, and an -
 do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth - er a shep - herd in pas - tures green: they were saints of God, if you
 oth - er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth - ly rea - son,
 church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like

know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.
 none in the least, why I should-n't be one, too.
 you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.

***Congregational Response**
Postlude

"Ours the Journey"
 "Celebration"

Robert Hebble

God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar,
 we, thy peo - ple, ours the jour - ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er,
 now and ev - er - more. Now and for - ev - er - more!

You, whether a member or guest, are an important and valuable part of this St. John's Chapel Community. Your participation in this worship service is a blessing. May you always know God's gift of unending love.

A nursery is available during worship for children up through three years of age. If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an usher.

Hearing-assistance devices are available for use during worship. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher to get one for you.

Board of Christian Ed meets Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 6:30 pm.

Ozark Cluster Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 10:00 am.

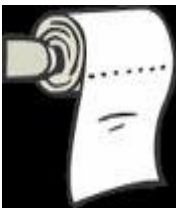
The UCC is ceasing publication of *United Church News*. The Missouri Mid-South Conference has also ceased publication of *The Courier*. You now have 3 options to keep in touch with what's happening in the conference:

1. You can sign up for the electronic newsletter, *eCourier*, by e-mailing mms@mmsucc.org.
2. The Missouri Mid-South Conference has a Facebook page.
3. You can visit the conference website at www.mmsucc.org.

The New Spiritual Development Group still has at least two opportunities to serve available. Just fill out the green form in today's bulletin and drop it in the basket by the name tag stand as you are leaving.



Discernment Prayers for Our Church. Prayer time is on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at noon. The next prayer dates are Sept. 22nd and Oct 13th..



The Friendship Circle is again participating in the Festival of Sharing. We will be making paper kits to go to people in MO who are in need. Each kit contains 2-4 roll packs of toilet paper, 2 large boxes of tissues and 3 rolls of quality paper towels. A box will be in the Narthex if you would like to join in this mission. The deadline for bringing items to the church is Sunday, October 11th.





Sunday School — 9:00 AM

Worship — 10:30 AM

Pastor's Day Off — Friday

Secretary's Office Hours: 8:30 AM — 1:00 PM Monday -Friday

St. John's Chapel UCC Staff

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dale Parson

Pastor's Home - 882-0415 Cell - 773-6702

Pastor's E-mail pastor@stjohnschapel.org

Secretary: Joanne Bourbon

Church Office - 881-5175 FAX - 881-1647

Church E-mail - sec@stjohnschapel.org

Music Director - Chris Brammer

Organist - Vicky Claborn

Nursery Attendant - Lea Ann Kruger

Custodian - Lee Bartell

September 20, 2009

Mary Lou Datema will open the church in September.

Today:	Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost-Rally Day	10:30 am
	The Kitchen.....	4:15 pm
	Independent Women.....	1:00 pm
Tuesday:	Board of Christian Ed.....	6:30 pm
Wednesday:	Ozark Cluster	10:00 am
	Grace & Weight	5:30 pm
	Chapel Bells.....	6:30 pm
	Chancel Choir	7:40 pm
Next Sun.:	Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost.....	10:30 am

Our Mission Statement

St. John's Chapel UCC is called to love unconditionally, seek justice, foster spiritual growth, and embrace diversity of thought and body as taught by Jesus Christ.