

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

10708 Lavinia Drive St. Louis, Missouri 63123 314-843-5100

www.stphilipsucc.com

July 30, 2023

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone Council President: Sandy Stevenson
Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Music Director: Mike Orzel

*indicates that you may rise as comfortably able
(text in bold read in unison)

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYER CONCERNS

* CALL TO WORSHIP - UCC BOW (Responsively)

O Creator of the Cosmos, who knows what the kingdom of God is like, but also remembers what it was like before.

**Before creation and kingdoms, before mustard seeds and fine pearls,
before yeast and bakers to make bread.**

So, you know what it is like to long for them, to imagine them into being,

**And it is from this longing for your kingdom and for you that we enter
our worship.**

Yes, come, let us praise and pray to our God of promise..

**Let us rejoice in the Good News together—how nothing can separate us
from the presence of God. AMEN.**

* OPENING HYMN: "Gather Us In" # 284 1-3

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.

See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame.

Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in - the rich and the haughty, gather us in - the proud and strong;

give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth;

here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;

nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that true.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

O Spirit, who helps us in our struggles, and teaches us how to pray when we don't know what to say or how to feel, we call on you from a sigh too deep for words. Within that sigh, we wonder, we question, and we hope that all things do, indeed, work together for your good. And in this experience of being here together, in this time set apart to be side by side in community, we are reminded how connected we already are. Let us open ourselves to your presence here. Let us seek first the kingdom of God, and in our searching, may we be found by you, Beloved, the One who searches for us first. AMEN.

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

RESPONSE: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.). When morning came, it was Leah!

And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

HYMN: "God of the Fertile Fields" # 695 1-3

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread;
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land
be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you
all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people everywhere
that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need,
your reign yet grows.
So let our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused
your love bestows.

SERMON: "The Kingdom of Heaven"
Rev. Laura Mignerone

ANTHEM: "Seek Ye First"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Your 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.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

* Doxology #46 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, the heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication - Worship Ways (Together)

Like the net that was thrown into the sea and brought in fish of every kind, we celebrate the multitude and diversity of gifts that have been shared here today. May God bless these treasures with the abundance of Christ's love and passion to embody justice in our world. AMEN.

* CLOSING HYMN: "For Beauty of Meadows" # 696 1-3

For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,
for all you created and gave us to share,
we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand,
as creatures who hear your most urgent command,
we turn from our wasteful destruction of life,
confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace,
all nature around us is ours but on lease;
your name we would hallow in all that we do,
fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

END OF SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

5:30-7:00pm

Join us for an evening of service, fellowship and food. We will enjoy some games and food together and then work on a project to give back to St. Philip's!

[RSVP HERE](#) or to Andrea Tukin at andreatukin@gmail.com or (314)566-8633

ST. PHILIP'S PARKING LOT IS GETTING A MAJOR FACELIFT!!

On Tuesday August 15 and Wednesday August 16 - weather permitting. It would be best to avoid church on those two days. If you need to come to church, please park on the front lawn - just follow the cones. Our ECC staff and families will be parking on the lawn for those two days also.

Any questions please contact Mike Shelton at 314-603-4478

AUGUST LUNCH BUNCH AUGUST 9

Please join us for St. Philip's August Lunch Bunch at noon on Wednesday, August 9 at Liliana's Italian Kitchen located at 11836 Tesson Ferry in the Plaza 21 by Dobbs Tire Center.

See the YELLOW signup sheet on the bulletin board and signup by Sunday, August 6.

If you have any questions, contact Sandy Stevenson at 636-333-2244.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Barnes	3
Dolores Zikes	3
Ellen Bell	8
Joshua Brym	8
Erin Hickman	8
Patty Siewing	10
John Rawlings	14
Judy Hickman	19
William Matthews, Jr	20
Merle Schuette	25
Sydney Stevenson	27
Jim Wodicker	30

ALOHA SUNDAY

August 20, 2023

Get into the spirit of "Aloha" by wearing a Hawaiian shirt or any flowered or bright colored shirt to worship.

If you have a lei, wear that too! If not, we are happy to provide you with a lei. There will be a box of leis at church. We are asking you to choose a lei to wear, but not to return it to the box. Please take it home with you. We cannot recycle the leis at this time.

Not attending church services yet? We invite you to wear a Hawaiian shirt at home and be part of the spirit of Aloha!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

The St. Louis UCC churches are organizing an online auction to benefit Habitat For Humanity. The auction will be held in the fall so right now we are collecting the items that will be auctioned. Please consider donating:

- a gift certificate or item(s) from your business/employer
- tickets to sporting/concert/cultural events
- a gift certificate for your talent/skill, i.e. handyman, gardening, organizing, sewing, cooking/baking, etc.
- a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant/store
- use your imagination!

Please contact Terri Karcher with questions and donations:

314-842-8739

fourkarch@att.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	31	1 August	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	7 7:00 Church Council Mtg	8	9 5:30-7:00 LOGOS end of Summer Service Proj	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	14	15 Parking Lot Re-do	16 Parking Lot Re-do	17	18	19
20 Aloha Sunday 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	28	29	30	31	1 September	2



**Our
Vision
Statement**

St. Philip's Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,

Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.



Joyce Brand

Victoria Dawson

Bob Eillson

Grace Heady

Virginia Hladnick

Mary Ann Krewson

Marilyn Milne

Jeanette Monroe

Jered Nagle

Shirley Nottelmann

Paul Shrout

Lily Swanson

Paula Williams



www.stphilipsucc.com

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