

ST. JOHN'S UCC

945 WOLFRUM ROAD, WELDON SPRING, MO
636-926-8995
stjohnsweldonspring.org

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

NOTE: *If you are watching the YouTube pre-recorded worship service, please note that the hymn choices may vary from the printed bulletin.*



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

GATHERING SONG “Welcome Holy Spirit”

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.
Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

***People:* We will worship the Almighty and sing praises.
We will proclaim good news to others.**

Leader: Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us.
We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.

***People:* Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
We seek to let God’s love be perfected in us.**

Leader: Remember that you have been baptized.
God claims you and has high expectations of you.

***People:* Christ is the vine; we are the branches.
We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.**

OPENING HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

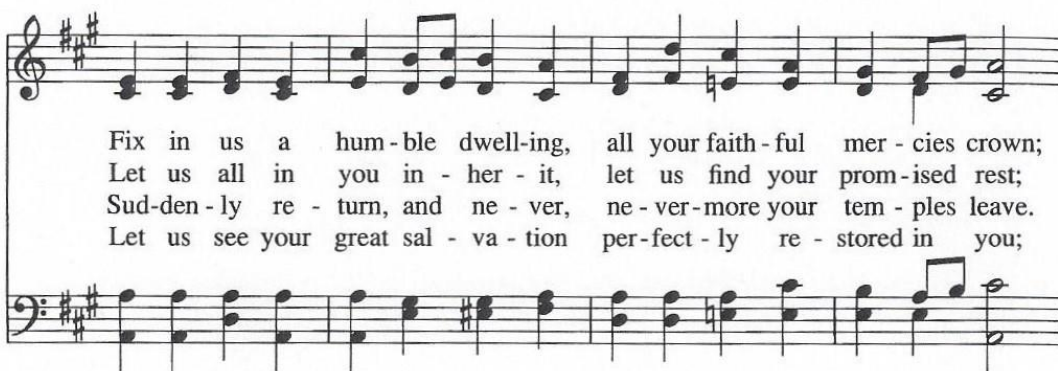
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



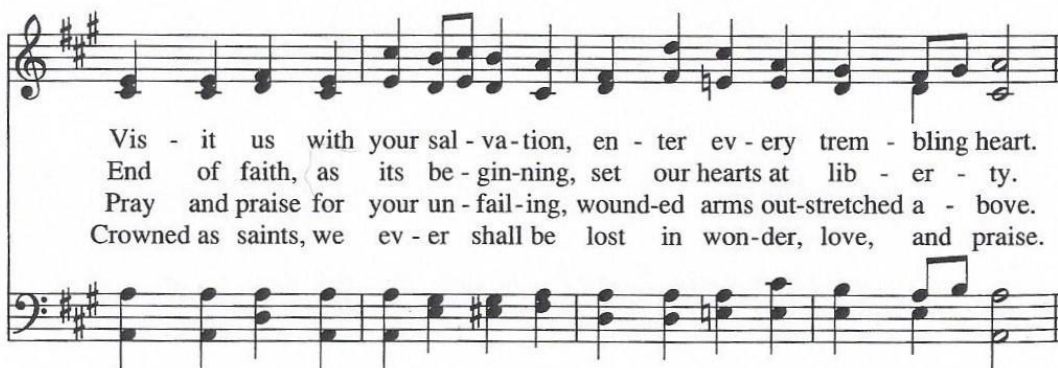
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

From the New Century Hymnal
 © 1995 The Pilgrim Press
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This hymn is said to have been suggested by a “Song of Venus” from Dryden’s King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the “sweet singer of Methodism,” who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL
 For another harmonization, see 368, 495

INVOCATION *(in unison)*

Open our senses to your direction, amazing God, so we may be alert to opportunities you give us. Fill us with good news to share with those who seek meaning for their lives. We are here because we need the good news ourselves. There is much in life that we do not understand. We seek to know your Word and to be led by it. Recall us to the vows of our baptism, reconfirming in us the covenant promises that link us to you and to one another. As we meet you here, our hearts are lifted up in praise. May our worship glorify your name and be pleasing to you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN

"Cares Chorus"

*I cast all my cares upon you,
I lay all my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.*

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE

Leader: Christ, in your mercy.

People: Hear our 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8 (NIV)

The Vine and the Branches

¹⁵ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

SERMON

“Milestones”

Part 1: “Becoming a Disciple”

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. Your love has sustained us through many trials and temptations. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. Your loving judgment has

provided the pruning our lives require in order to bear fruit. We give in order to extended to others the blessings we have received and to continue the ministry we need as we seek to abide together in your love. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

(see next page)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my
 2 *Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart, in my*
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart, in my
 4 *Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart, in my*

1 heart; Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my
 2 *heart; Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my*
 3 heart; Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my
 4 *heart; Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my*

1 heart. In my heart, in my heart,
 2 *heart. In my heart, in my heart,*
 3 heart. In my heart, in my heart,
 4 *heart. In my heart, in my heart,*

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 2 *Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart.*
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart.
 4 *Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart.*

BENEDICTION

Leader: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people. Go into the world in peace, declaring the praises of God who has called you out of darkness into wonderful light. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope; through the grace of Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

PARTICIPANTS: Worship Leader: Rev. David Poe; Pianist: Ann Gaadt; Liturgist: Sheila Fredrick; Singers: Connie Wildt, Janet Summers, Lynn Schaefer; Set-up, Parking, Offering: Greg Hale, Ken Waterman; Sound Booth: Jeff Kolkmeier; Bulletins and Greeters: Jerry & Polly Wagner

Joys and Concerns Prayer List

Please have the person's permission **before** adding him or her to our prayer list.

TODAY AND THROUGH THE WEEK, PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those in our church family:

Comfort: Suzanne Weaver; Wes & Sharon Kolkmeier; Vera Villa; Kent Baker
Healing/Strength: Tom Gooch; Cheryl Saeuberlich; Hank Kroeger; Audrey Behr; Rev. Don Hartman; Zoey Poyser; Danny Kolkmeier; John Long; Vince Morris; Larry Nadler; George Schlie; Judy DeClue; Kendra Howell; Mary Verdone; Dave & Dorothy Kappeller; Pat Fischer

Others for whom we have concern:

Healing/Strength: Gail Smith (Vicie Smith's daughter-in-law); Abby Woodward (daughter of David and Jill Carr); Mike Hollis (friend of Pam Johnston); Rose Stamm (friend of Barb Eickmeier); Shara Power (Dot

Janitch's granddaughter); Gary Morrem (Marian Lonning's brother); Kathy Collier (Rick Weaver's sister); June Bonn (Chris Savage's sister); Joy Bellow; Larry Smith (Friend of Weavers); Marla Fix; Wally Kolkmeier; Tristan Howell (daughter of Jinnielynn Howell); Pastor Jeff Willey; Raquel Malana Slade (friend of Jinnielynn Howell); Sandy (daughter of Mary Lafser); Shirley Gibeson (mother of Debbie Lilley); Gary Rose (Barb Rose's stepson); Angela Farwell (Barb Rose's niece); Tina Raeber (Barb Rose's daughter); Lynn Schaefer (friend of Connie Wildt)

Guidance: Kathy Collier (Rick Weaver's sister); Daniel Nadler

Comfort: Family and friends of Ruby Grimm and Shirley Fehl (friends of Alice Wolf)

Please contact the church office with prayer request updates.

News & Announcements

FOR MAY 2, 2021

Last week's attendance (04/25/21): 66 people, 37 cars

Office hours this week: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reminder that the church building is currently closed due to COVID-19 and Office & Communications Manager Cassandra Langley is working from home. Please feel free to call the office at 636-926-8995 during the hours listed above or email office@stjohnsweldonspring.org anytime.

UPDATES FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

1. The council approved reopening the church on June 1, with our first in-person service on June 6! The task force has many details to work out between now and then, but we are so excited to be back TOGETHER! One detail we can share now is that the indoor service will return to the 10 a.m. time that was voted on and agreed to prior to the pandemic, but virtual options will still be available for those not quite ready. We want everyone to have an option with which they're comfortable.

2. The council approved the purchase of a reconditioned lawnmower. If a good one cannot be found we will have to consider a new one.

3. We are excited that we have had some new folks attending that have expressed interested in joining, and we are looking at ways to start new member classes sometime after we get back into church. More info to come, and a warm welcome to any of you that are newcomers!!

4. Picnic with the Pastor - May 2 after Sunday Service

Please bring lawn chairs and a picnic lunch, if desired. This is an opportunity to share in conversation with Pastor Poe and get to know him better, as well as for him to learn more about us. Social distancing and masks required.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor David Poe's office hours will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-Thur. Other times are available by appointment. Contact Pastor Dave at 636-667-2541 or pastor@stjohnsweldonspring.org. Note: Church Office Hours remain the same (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

NEW! WATCH THE SUNDAY SERVICE LIVE ON FACEBOOK

We believe this will be beneficial for folks who are already attending the drive-in service – you can get on Facebook during the service and get an up-close view, perhaps better than you would get from inside your car – while still remaining safe and socially distanced. In addition, folks can watch from home at 9 a.m. while the service is happening, OR watch after the fact, as the video will remain on the St. John's Facebook page.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study meets on Zoom every Tuesday at 8 a.m. If you would like to join the group, please look for the information you need in the weekly "Ways to Connect" email that is sent on Mondays, or on the website calendar. If you do not receive the email and would like to, please contact the church office.

GRADUATE SUNDAY – MAY 16, 2021

Please fill out the form below if you would like your graduate to be included in our slideshow on May 16 and in the June newsletter! You can also send your photos and information to office@stjohnsweldonspring.org to be a part of the celebration! The graduates need not be church members and can be graduating from kindergarten, junior high, high school, college, a trade school, etc.).

Graduate Name: _____

Graduating From:

Next Steps:

Honors/any additional information you would like included:

Submitted by: _____

Relationship to You: _____

ONGOING COLLECTIONS – SODA TABS AND EYE GLASSES

An ongoing project of the St. John's Mission & Caring Ministry is the collection of soda tabs to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities and eyeglasses for the Festival of Sharing. Thank you to all those who have donated!

Anyone wishing to be a part of the Mission and Caring Committee: our next meeting is May 17 via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Contact Dana Fehr or the church office if you would like to be part of this committee so we can add you to the email for Zoom.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study meets on Zoom every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Look for the information you need to join the virtual Bible study in the weekly "Ways to Connect" email that is sent on Mondays. If you do not receive the email and would like to, please contact the church office.

DON'T MISS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

"One Call Now" is the phone alert system we use to get the word out to our friends and members about important events, weather-related cancellations, meeting reminders, bereavement notices and more. If you miss the voice call, the system will leave a message on your voicemail. If the message gets cut off, simply dial 1-877-698-3261 to retrieve the message in its entirety. If you are not receiving the One Call Now notices and would like to, please contact the church office at 636-926-8995.