



St. John's United Church of Christ
300 N. Huntersville Road, Batesville, IN 47006
Worship Service: 9:00am / Sunday School: 10:15am

May 19, 2024

[* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

Confirmands on Your Confirmation Day: May the Holy Spirit strengthen your faith and deepen your love as you begin a new commitment to Christ."

Organ Prelude: "My Heart Ever Faithful" — J. S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Pastoral Greeting

Call to Worship:

L: Here in this place, as we gather to remember the Risen Christ...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

L: To a world that is desperate for the love of God; to a world that needs the peace of Jesus...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

L: In the midst of all of life's sorrows; when we are surrounded by the best of life's joys...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

L: In all times and all places, because we always need to experience anew the grace of God...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

L: Come now, Holy Spirit; our hearts are waiting...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

*Opening Hymn: "On Pentecost They Gathered" #334

*Prayer of the Day:

Loving God, you have made us and loved us and call us. You invite us into your Church; you call us to follow you. May your Spirit move in this time of worship. Through that Spirit, empower us to respond to your call and show others your love. Speak to our souls and inspire us as we continue to seek you on the journey of faith. For we pray this in Jesus's name, Amen.

Prayer Response: "Glory Be to the Father" #734

Mission Moment: St. John's Sunday School (VBS)

Especially for Children

The Song: **"Jesus Loves the Little Children"**

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in His hand,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-4 ~ and ~ Acts 2:1-8, 11b-21

Chancel Choir: "Like a River In My Soul" Anthem

Sermon: "Dreams and Promises"

The Celebration of the Rite of ConfirmationInvitation

For: Lily Benoit, Serenity Feldmann, Drew Jaisle, Gabriel Kuykendall, Aydin Nunlist, Aubree Spurlock, Carson Weiler.

The Invitation and Words of Scripture

The Confirmation Vows and Promises

The Address and Question about Participation

The Statement of Faith [In Unison]

We believe in you, O God, Eternal spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in Holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to the entire world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial, rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.



**St. John's UCC 2023 Confirmation Students
Confirmation Statements of Faith**

Statements of Faith:

Lily Benoit: Confirmation deepened my faith by teaching me more about God, the Bible, and our church. It encouraged me to go to church more than I did before. I read the Bible more often. I learned so many lessons from the Bible, but one that stuck out to me is forgiveness. Forgiveness is important. Just like in the Bible, it says, “Bear with one another, forgive and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Before Confirmation I knew pretty much nothing about the Bible or the church. Going to Church has taught me more Church things. Pastor Joey has been a big part of helping my faith grow by teaching me more and more every confirmation class.

Serenity Feldmann: I am going to be fair; my faith journey has been filled with a decent amount of twists and turns. At one point, it was very childlike. But through the years, I think I have grown. Even when I started Confirmation, I felt detached. It felt like all we were doing was revisiting stories I had known before. Same old, same old. I had read them so much that I had forgotten to think about their meaning. I don't know if you have ever felt the same. But during the second year, I started growing independent. I began to think about God more. Why this sudden change? I don't think I need to know. All I know is that I am here now. That God is here. And that Christ our Lord is here. The Holy Spirit is here. They will save us. They love us. Me and you. That's enough for now.

Gabriel Kuykendall: Before Confirmation, I believed in God but not as much as I do now. Now I believe in God and am happy to have gotten this chance. I'm also happy to know the stories of God. Thank you Pastor Joey for this experience.

Aydin Nunlist: I believe our God created us and everything good on this Earth and we are his people. He sent his one and only son, Jesus Christ, to be sacrificed on this cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have eternal life in heaven. I have faith in God and Jesus Christ, our savior, and believe he comes first above all else. In confirmation class, I have learned many things, some things I still don't completely understand but I am willing to try to learn more and try to understand what I don't. I think that it is still important to remember that we are human and that sin is a part of our nature, but we should always try to repent for what we do. I thank God that I am still living and breathing and am able to do what I choose in life. I feel that whenever I go to Church or read a passage out of the Bible, it builds a stronger relationship between me and God. I will always try to continue to go to Church and read the Bible. But going to Church and reading the Bible isn't the only part to being a good Christian. It is important that we as people should be good to one another. One of Jesus' greatest teachings was you should be kind to everyone, even your enemies. It is important that we listen to Jesus' words if we want to be better.

Aubree Spurlock: We believe in the one true God who is the creator of all things, the source of our faith. We trust in God's mercy, and grace, knowing that He will always be with us. Our faith in God strengthens us in times of trouble and guides us on the path of righteousness. We affirm our belief in the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as the foundation of our faith. We hold fast to the teaching of Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. We rely on the power of prayer to deepen our relationship with God and seek His will for our lives. We believe in the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God, which provides us with guidance and wisdom. We are confident in our salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and we look forward to the promise of eternal life with God in heaven.

Those reading their Statements of Faith during Church:

Drew Jaisle

Carson Weiler

Baptism of Gabriel Kuykendall

The Prayers of the Congregation [In Unison]

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Act of Confirmation and Laying on of Hands (*confirmands come forward*)

The Signing of the Membership Book

The Greeting of Christian Love

*The Welcome and Promise of the Congregation [In Unison]

We welcome you into our membership and the Body of Christ. We promise you our continued friendship and prayers as we together share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. May God bless you on this sacred day, may we together continue to be witnesses of the love of Christ.

The Prayer

Invitation for Our Offerings

Organ Offertory: “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” arr. DeCou

Doxology #34

Offertory Prayer

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion: *[We share an open communion here at St. John’s. All who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior are invited.]*

The Communion Prayer and Words of Institution: The Lord’s Prayer:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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

Communion Of Newly Confirmed

Sharing of the Bread & Cup: *(Note that there are grapes in the trays – these grapes are offered for youth who are not yet taking full Communion. We want them to start experiencing the meaning of communion and feel included.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving: **Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn: “O Jesus, I Have Promised” — See Last Page

*Benediction

Organ Postlude: “Come, Thou Almighty King” arr. Hustad

Every day God thinks of you. Psalm 68:19

Every hour God looks after you. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Every minute God cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Because every second He loves you. Jeremiah 31:3

SCRIPTURES



Isaiah 43:1-4

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.



Acts 2:1-8, 11b-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language...in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' God.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Feldmann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Johnston
Organist/Choir Director	Mr. David W. Hanson

LITURGIST / BENEVOLENCE CALENDAR:

May 19	Dan Hall	St. John's Sunday School (VBS)
May 26	Myron Kanning	St. John's Cemetery Fund
June 2	Mike Schumacher	So Loved Closet of Ripley County
June 9	Joan Westerfeld	Our Church Wider Mission (UCC)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

May 19: Confirmation & Communion Sunday
Chancel Choir Singing
May 23: Messenger Deadline
May 25: BHS Graduation 11am

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 26: Trinity Sunday & Memorial Day Service
May 27: Memorial Day

St. John's Bereaved Prayer List *(these names remain on for one year):*

Marian Koester; Willis Rouse; Doris Lamping; John Moody.

Others For Whom We Have Been Asked To Pray: Gayle Sarringhaus; Nikki Sarringhaus; Dave & Bonnie Johnston; Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, Grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus); Randy & Becky Schebler; Margaret Meyers; Delores Cornett; Robert Weber; Sandi Maxwell (Cancer, friend of Jennifer Huffmeyer); Georgia Haarman; Dan Borchelt (Cancer, uncle to Barb Foster, cousin to Paul Borchelt); Mabel Horton (On her passing, Mabel is the sister of Ruth Thie and Aunt to Jennifer Huffmeyer); Anne Thie (On her passing); Danny & Patty Canterbury (On her Recovery, friend of Dan & Elizabeth Hall); Steve & Ann Koph (Melanoma diagnosis and health issues, friend of Dan & Elizabeth Hall); Sheryl Voss (Health Issues), Elaine Wessling (Health Issues); Connie Miller (Recovery); Joan Westerfeld (Hip Replacement); Bob Selke (Recovery from Surgery); Olivia Williams (Surgery & Recovery, daughter of Tim & Sara Putnam).

Members/Friends Serving Active Duty in the Armed Forces:

Kris Freeman, Aaron Gordon, Steven Meer, Ryan Miller,
Chris Williams, Bryce Timonera.

Our Members & Friends in Nursing/Retirement Homes:

St. Andrews, Batesville: Margaret Meyers, Carol Narwold.

Announcements



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE:

The Sunday School Board will once again be hosting a special Memorial Day service after worship on Sunday, May 26. This year our guest speaker will be Tom Williams. Please plan to join, either in person or online, for this always special service in our Cemetery honoring those veterans who have gone too soon.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

June 3 – 7 is when St. John's Vacation Bible School will be. Please save the date, spread the word, and invite your friends and cousins to come along to this awesome event! Sign up through our Facebook page or scan the QR Code. →



2024 GRADUATES:

We want to honor both in worship on June 2nd and in the June newsletter all of our members who've graduated this year. High school, college, and grad school all count. Please email or call the office and let us know so that we can give the honor and congratulations deserved to our graduates. A photo and a short paragraph about your graduate would be awesome. Things to include would be: where they graduated from, where they'll be going to further their education, and what field of study, or maybe planning to serve in our military, or possibly go straight into the workforce. This would be awesome to include in the June Messenger!!



YOUTH GROUP:

It has been a year of Sabbath for our youth programming, but we are hoping to schedule some activities this summer. If you are interested AT ALL in youth group, please join us after Sunday School on June 2nd to dream and imagine the summer to come. If this date cannot work for you, please let Pastor Joey know your interest (and what you might be interested in doing). We will put dates on the calendar for the summer and fall, so we want as much input and interest as possible. This is open to all youth in grades (incoming) 6-12. Join us!

Hymns

On Pentecost They Gathered (page #334)

On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day, a band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing and pray. A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air, and tongues of fire glowing inspired each person there.

The people all around them were startled and amazed to understand their language, as Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here? That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.

God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe, on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power. The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.

O Spirit sent from heaven on that day long ago, rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise, so people of all nations glad songs of joy shall raise.

Glory Be to the Father (page #734)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Borning Cry (page #680)

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time,
and you join your hearts as one,

~ continued in next column ~

Borning Cry (continued)

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

Doxology (page #34)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised to serve
Thee to the end;
be Thou forever near me, my
Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if
Thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if
Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me,
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
to all who follow Thee
that where Thou art in glory
there shall Thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to
serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my
Master and my Friend!