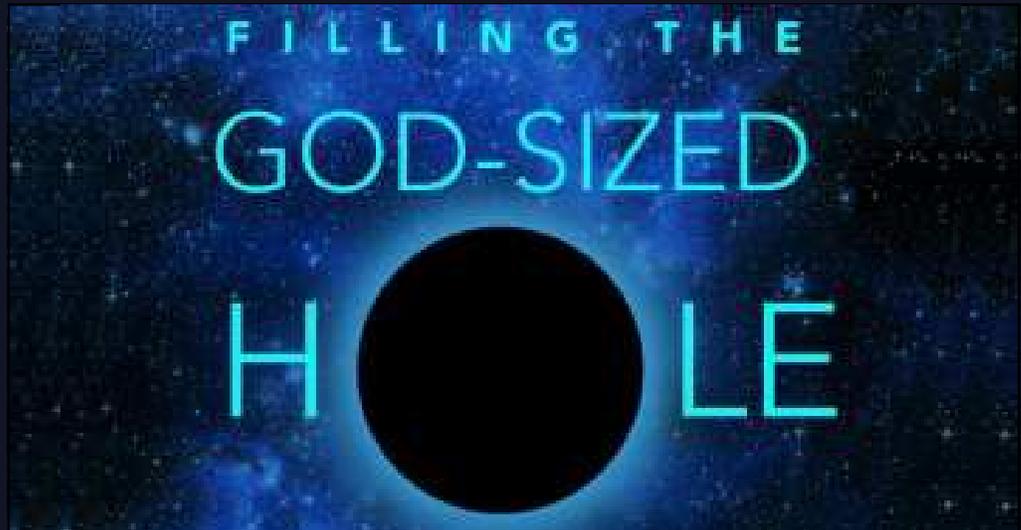




**August 2nd  
10:50 a.m.**

**STEP 9**

**SKILLFUL MEANS**



*We welcome you to this  
service of worship!*

St. John's welcomes everyone. Our hearts, minds, and doors are open to people of all ages, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, theological identities, economic status, disabilities, and sojourn on the way to recovery and wholeness.

We are a diverse community whose discipleship to Jesus Christ is demonstrated through our deep commitment to servant ministry.

Welcome Home!

**Please silence all  
electronic devices**

**TODAY'S USHERS:**

Don Tyson, Bill Denton,  
John Buxton, Carla Shirley,  
Bob Miller, Walter Day

+ **Please stand as you are able.**

## The Entrance

### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### OPENING

Ralph Vaughan Williams

“Lento” from Six Studies in English Folk-Song

Elizabeth Gassler, Guest Cellist

#### + PRAYER OF INVOCATION

#### + CELEBRATING IN SONG: UMH No. 166

SINE NOMINE

“All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine”

#### + INVITATION TO TABLE

#### + CALL TO CONFESSION

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or how poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

#### + PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past we cannot change; open to us a future in which  
we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in  
your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

#### + ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God of truth,

you have spoken your Word to us and in us.

Your spirit has filled the caverns of our hearts.

With the grace of our Lord,

Friends, believe the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Serenity Prayer

**God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.**

**Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.**

This morning's quote is taken from page 76 and 80 of Richard Rohr's *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps.*

Steps and Scriptures

- 1) We admitted we were powerless ...that our lives had become unmanageable.
- 2) Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- 3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.
- 4) Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
- 5) Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
- 6) Were entirely ready to have God remove all of these defects of character.
- 7) Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.
- 8) Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
- 9) Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

**+ THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The Peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

**SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS**

**Proclamation and Response**

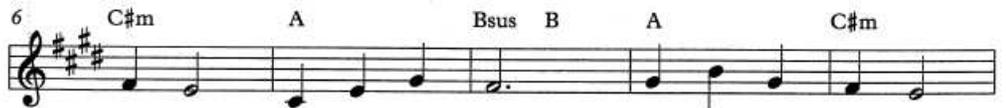
**CENTERING HYMN**

PAHOA

“Peace of Our Praying”



1. Peace of our pray-ing,	Song of our sing-ing,	Truth of our
2. Peace of our pray-ing,	Christ of our cry-ing,	Strength of our
3. Peace of our pray-ing,	Faith of for-giv-ing,	Way of our



tell - ing,	Love of all loves,	Health of our heal - ing,
striv - ing,	Heart of our heart,	Bread of our break - ing,
walk - ing,	King of all kings,	Breath of our breath-ing,



Gift of our giv - ing,	Life of our liv - ing,	Light of all lights.
Wine of our wait - ing,	Blood of our boast-ing,	Death of all death.
Cour-age of car - ing,	Hope of our hop - ing,	Life of all life.

**SILENT PRAYERS**

**SERENITY PRAYER**

**BREATHING UNDER WATER**

“What the Western religions sometimes called ‘wisdom,’ the Eastern religions often called ‘skillful means.’ ...Skillful means is not just to make amends but to make amends in ways that ‘do not injure others.’ Truth is not just factual truth (the greatest mistake of fundamentalists), but a combination of both text and context, style and intent. Our supposed right to know every ‘truth’ about our neighbor too often feeds those with preexisting malice, bias, or mental imbalance, and leads to spin, distortion, and misinterpretation of supposed facts... The Twelve Steps are about two things: making amends and keeping us from wounding one another further.”

“Like apples of gold in a silver setting is a word that is aptly spoken. It is a golden ring, an ornament of finest gold, such is a wise apology to an attentive ear.”  
~ Proverbs 25:11-12

“To listen to the word and not obey it is like looking at your own features in a mirror and then, after a quick look, going off and immediately forgetting what you look like.”  
~ James 1:23

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son, treat me as one of your paid servants.”  
~ Luke 15:19

Today’s communion offering goes to support Bruce Elementary School and Workers Interfaith Network.

#### 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,  
the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

A gluten free option is available for request on the intinction side.

After the service, visitors are invited to bring their GET CONNECTED CARDS to a member of the ministry staff so that we may come to know one another. Alternatively, visitors may place their GET CONNECTED CARDS in the offering plate.

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Fernando Ortega

“Sing To Jesus”  
Johnny Jeffords, Mary Thomas: Duet

## STEPS AND SCRIPTURES

### HOMILY

Rev’d Reneé Dillard  
“The Promise of Serenity and Peace”

## Love by Any Other Name

## SHARING GOD’S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

### Call to Respond

### Offertory

Frank Bridge

“Cradle Song”  
Elizabeth Gassler, Cellist

### + Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the source of all our gifts.  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts.  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: UMH No. 13

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

## BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

## PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Sending Forth

### + CLOSING HYMN UMH No. 600

WORDS OF LIFE

“Wonderful Words of Life”

### + LIFE OF THE CHURCH: PARISH NOTICES

### + BENEDICTION

### + SENDING FORTH

Dieterich Buxtehude

“Praeludium in D Major”



1207 Peabody Ave.  
 Memphis, TN 38104  
 (901) 726-4104  
 www.stjohnsmidtown.org

The news of our life, growth, and discipleship

# FROM THE CORNER

**August 2, 2015**

### Ed in the a.m.

Ed, a folk-theologian, will entertain and enrich us with story and song during morning worship on *Sunday, August 9.*

### Ed in the p.m.

Ed will perform in the sanctuary at 3pm on *Sunday, August 9.* You will enjoy his enchanting music, quirky humor, and insightful monologues. Our nursery will be available during the concert.



### Young Adult Fellowship Opportunities

Enjoy dinner downtown with the Young Adults on Friday, August 7 at 6pm. RSVP by Wednesday, August 5.

Head to AutoZone park to watch the Redbirds game with friends on Sunday, August 16 at 6pm. Tickets are \$12 each. RSVP by Tuesday, August 11.

Enjoy and meet others in this fast-growing group! RSVP to Zach Ferguson: [zferguson@stjohnsmidtown.org](mailto:zferguson@stjohnsmidtown.org)

#### Get Connected Online

Like us on Facebook:  
 St. John's United Methodist Church - Midtown Memphis

Follow us on twitter: [@stjohnsmidtown](https://twitter.com/stjohnsmidtown)

#### WORSHIP & MINISTRY STAFF

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Rev'd Johnny Jeffords</b> | <i>Senior Minister</i>              |
| <b>Rev'd Renee Dillard</b>   | <i>Discipleship Ministries</i>      |
| <b>Rev'd G. Scott Morris</b> | <i>Associate Minister</i>           |
| <b>Rev'd John Kilzer</b>     | <i>Recovery Ministries</i>          |
| <b>Matthew Bogart</b>        | <i>Music/Worship Ministries</i>     |
| <b>Scott Elsholz</b>         | <i>Organist</i>                     |
| <b>Zachary Ferguson</b>      | <i>Youth/Young Adult Ministries</i> |
| <b>Lyn Stewart</b>           | <i>Church Admin./Finance</i>        |
| <b>Emma Martin</b>           | <i>Office Manager</i>               |
| <b>Kristen Berning</b>       | <i>Office Asst./Communications</i>  |
| <b>Bill Dozier</b>           | <i>Building &amp; Maintenance</i>   |

For further staff information and contacts visit:  
[WWW.STJOHNSMIDTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSMIDTOWN.ORG)

### United Methodist Women Upcoming Events

Celebrate the season! Our Summer Social is at the home of Rae-Anne Pitts on Monday, *August 17* at 6pm.

Mark your calendars! UMC Fall Retreat "Creative Soul: Prayer and Practice" will be at Nelson Woods on *October 9-10.*



These ladies had a lovely breakfast Café Eclectic this week.

### School Supply Drive for Bruce Elementary School

Share some neighborly love for the kids starting their school year at Bruce Elementary. Take advantage of back-to-school sales or look through your home office supplies. Place school supplies in the box beside the food pantry door.

### End-of-Summer Cookout at St. John's

The Young Adults are hosting a fun, flavorful, and family-friendly cookout on *August 30* from 5-7pm! The group is providing burgers, veggie burgers, and all accompaniments. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Kids can look forward to water games, and all can look forward to a great time!

### Community Breakfast

This summer's final community breakfast will take place before worship service on Sunday, August 30 in the Narthex. Get your morning off to a great start by taking advantage of fellowship and food!

### Trustee Meeting After Worship

After worship, trustees will immediately gather in Room 205.



THE WAY  
 a service of recovery

This Friday at 6:00 pm  
 John Kilzer leads us with Sam Shoup, Steve Selvidge, Doug McMinn, and Ashley Davis.

#### FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Monday- Mary Ann Sandidge  
 Wednesday- Patti Smith  
 Friday- Jim Lindstrom