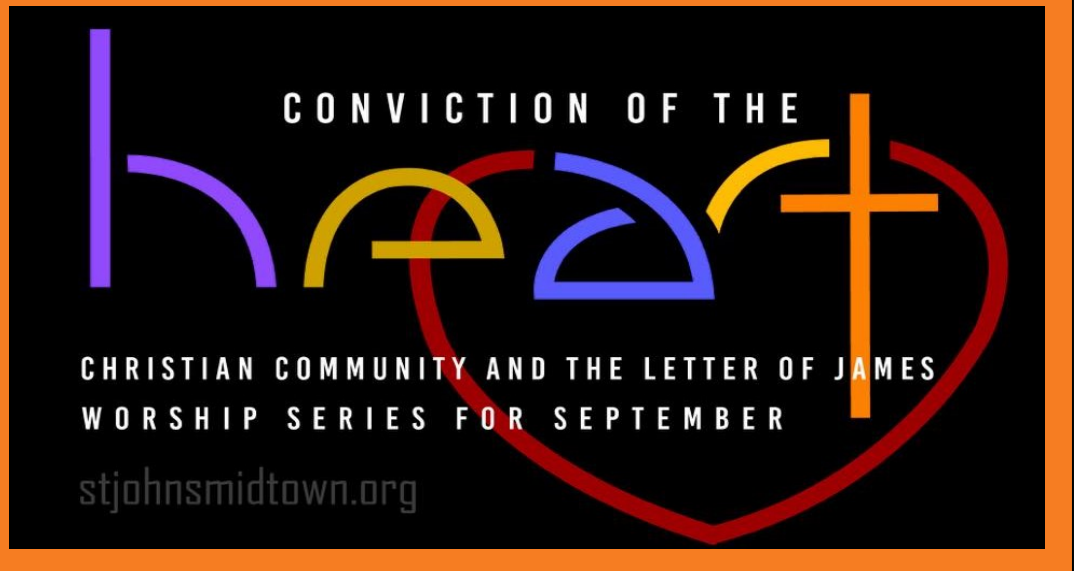




September 20
10:50 a.m.

**17th Sunday After
Pentecost**



*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!

TODAY'S USHERS:

Lloyd Hearn, Mike Coop,
Charles Garrison, Herb Levy

TODAY'S ACOLYTES:

Christopher Williams,
Bradly Thomas

**TODAY'S COMMUNION
OFFERING:**

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Entrance

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Charles-Marie Widor
"Andante sostenuto" from Gothic Symphony

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Who is wise and understanding among us?

**Those who seek wisdom and understanding
each and every day. Those who delight in God
and meditate on God's law.**

Come, learn more about the wisdom from above,
a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

**O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels!
We draw near to you.**

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: TFWS No. 2004

HYFRYDOL

"Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"

+ CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is good and forgiving.

God is love and is gracious to all who call on him.

Let us trust in God as we make the confessions of our hearts.

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we live our lives as best we can— dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for your insight. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. Amen.

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts. Mean-spirited ambition isn't wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn't wisdom. Twisting the truth to make yourselves sound wise isn't wisdom. It's the furthest thing from wisdom—it's animal cunning, devilish, conniving. Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats.

Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way.

So let God work his will in you. Yell aloud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

+ ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When we come before God in humility and honesty, God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing.

Thanks be to God!

+ GLORIA PATRI UMH No. 70

MEINEKE

*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.*

+SHARING THE PEACE

Jesus came to bring peace among us. Let us sow the seeds for peace in our world by sharing the peace of Christ with one another, stranger and friend alike.

Proclamation and Response

FIRST ACT OF PROCLAMATION—HEALING & BLESSING

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Refrain

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Verse 1

*Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.*

Refrain

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

CENTERING HYMN: UMH No. 431

WORLD PEACE

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSICAL OFFERING

K. Lee Scott

“Servants of Peace”
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING - James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

HOMILY

Rev'd Dr. Jeffords

“A Word to the Wise”

Servants of Peace

*Lord, make us servants of your peace:
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.*

*Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.*

*Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.*

*May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly.
For in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiv'n.*

*Dying, we live, and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day.
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
to wake at last in heaven's light.*

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERTORY

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”
Tanisha Ward, Soloist

Mrs. S. A. Martin

+ DOXOLOGY

*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!*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: UMH No. 9

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**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**You are the generous one, full of mercy and goodness for your
creation. Send your wisdom with these gifts, that they may reach those
who need your love and welcome. Bring about a harvest of goodness
through these gifts sown in peace. Amen.**

Sending Forth

+ RECESSIONAL HYMN: TFWS No. 2129

ASSAM

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

+ SENDING FORTH TO SERVE—Hospitality Team

+ BENEDICTION

+ POSTLUDE

Johann Sebastian Bach
“Praeludium in C Major” BWV 547

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



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

FROM THE CORNER

The news of our life, growth, and discipleship

September 20, 2015

The Service of Healing and Blessing is Tonight

Do you wish to receive anointing and healing prayer for yourself or someone else? Do you wish to receive a simple blessing for your work in a hurting world? Do you wish to be prayerfully present in support of others? Tonight, *September 20* at 5pm, there will be a brief service of healing and blessing in the Chapel.

Safe Sanctuary Training

As one way we keep the youngest members of our church community safe and well cared for, all persons working with children and youth are required to complete Safe Sanctuary Training and submit authorization for a background check.

Additional training times will be offered as needed, but please make every effort to attend this training next Sunday, *September 27* from 12:30pm-1:30pm in the Hospitality Room. Snacks will be provided. See Kirsten Ferrell or Renee Dillard for more information.

Paws for a Blessing



Gather your furry (or slimy... or feathery...) family members and come to the St. John's community garden on Saturday, *October 3* at 10am. Your pet will receive a blessing, and you will enjoy the excitement surrounding the latest endeavors in the garden. There's more! The Streetdog Foundation will be present;

they are hosting an adoption event. Help them rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home stray and abandoned dogs.

Our Hospitality Team is Shaping Up!

You can show the community our willingness to give, listen, and care. A volunteer team will be welcoming and helpful to church visitors from 10:30am-12:30pm Monday-Friday. You have the opportunity to give two hours –even just once a month- serving coffee to our neighborhood guests, handing out street ministry bags, and aiding in office tasks that help St. John's and our guests! Contact Kristen at the church office if you are interested at kberning@stjohnsmidtown.org.

Upcoming Celebration and Unveiling!

Our newly crafted Communion Table, created in honor and memory of Rev. Frank McCrae, will be consecrated during worship on *October 4*, World Communion Sunday. The Advent Sunday School Class will host a reception following worship.

Thank you to those who have generously contributed to the funding for this project. Additional contributions are welcome and may be submitted by check (please indicate for "Table Project") or online through the St. John's website. Join us as we celebrate our heritage of mission and ministry on this corner. Here's a sneak peek from our latest trip to see the progress:



UMW Fall Retreat: Creative Soul in Prayer and Practice

Join the ladies of St. John's Friday, *October 9* – Saturday, *October 10* for a weekend of fellowship and creativity at Nelson Woods. Our retreat will include delicious food, times of worship and prayer, and creative expression opportunities. Most of all, it is a time for good conversation in a loving community, a safe place for sharing, and a lot of guaranteed laughter and joy! RSVP to Stephanie Sonnenfelt at stephanie.sonnenfelt@gmail.com.

Tuesday Bible Study Resumes

This group is so special! You won't regret joining them! Our Tuesday Morning study is meeting at 10am in the Hospitality Room. This week they will begin examining and discussing the letter of James. This text will be the emphasis in worship during September, and the group's focus from *September 22 - October 13*.



THE WAY
 a service of recovery

This Friday at 6pm
 John Kilzer leads us with
 Dave Smith,
 Jim Duckworth,
 Tony Thomas,
 & Doug McMinn.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Monday– Mary Ann Sandidge
 Wednesday– Earline Mathews
 Friday– Missy Williams

Get Connected Online



St. John's United Methodist Church - Midtown Memphis



@stjohnsmidtown