

FROM THE CORNER

The news of our life, growth, and discipleship

SEPTEMBER

27 SUNDAY– Safe Sanctuary Training in the Hospitality Room for those working with children & youth (12:30pm)

OCTOBER

3 SATURDAY– Blessing of the Animals and Streetdog Foundation adoption day in the church garden (10:00am)

4 SUNDAY– World Communion Sunday. New communion table presented during worship service. Reception to follow.

4 SUNDAY– United Methodist Youth (12:00-3:00pm)

4 SUNDAY– Acolyte training during Atrium II & III

7 WEDNESDAY– St.John's@Crosstown (7:00pm) *POSTPONED TO NOV. 4*

9-10 FRIDAY & SATURDAY– United Methodist Women's Fall Retreat "Creative Soul: Prayer and Practice" at Nelson Woods (begins Friday at 5:30pm)

11 SUNDAY– Children's Sabbath

11 SUNDAY– Family Day at the Zoo hosted by Young Adults (after worship)



THE WAY
a service of recovery

This Friday at 6pm
John Kilzer leads us
with Steve Selvidge,
Sam Shoup, &
Kim Trammell.

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

St. John's United Methodist
Church - Midtown Memphis

@stjohnsmidtown



17 SATURDAY– Youth lock-in at Nelson Woods

18 SUNDAY– United Methodist Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (8:30am)

18 SUNDAY– Laity Sunday, Barb Lindstrom preaching

18 SUNDAY– Fall Festival at Nelson Woods including chili and baked goods competitions, hay rides, and more (4:00-7:00pm)

25 SUNDAY– Luncheon honoring John and Ann Buxton's service to our Food Pantry

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

MONDAY—Mary Ann Sandidge

WEDNESDAY—John Buxton

FRIDAY—Jim Lindstrom

WORSHIP & MINISTRY STAFF

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

For further staff information and contact information visit:
WWW.STJOHNSMIDTOWN.ORG



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:

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

TODAY'S ACOLYTES:

Ava Richardson,
Holden Gienapp

It is a pleasure to welcome Dr. Harter as our guest musician. She serves as professor of Oboe & English Horn at Rhodes College.

St. John's United Methodist Church

September 27, 2015

10:50 a.m.

18th Sunday After Pentecost

CONVICTION OF THE HEART—No. 4

THE ENTRANCE

Words of Welcome

A Prayer for Reflection

Eternal God, we confess that we live very individual lives.
We want to follow our own paths in life.
We want to make it on our own.
We want to find our own happiness.
We want to live by our own rules.

O Lord, even in our faith, we tend to think in very individual terms.
We talk about a personal relationship with you as if it is just about "you and me."
We are tempted to think that faith is what we do in church on Sunday mornings.

Yet you show us a different way.
For in your word you teach us ethics.
You show us what it means to live in a community of faith.
You call us to care for the poor and those in need.
You remind us again and again that a living faith includes faithful actions and deeds.

Help us to live in this world in joyful obedience to you,
out of gratitude for all that you have done for us,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prelude

"Adagio & Allegro"
Dr. Courtenay Harter, Oboe

Joseph Quantz

+ *Call to Worship* (based on James 4:8, 10)

Draw near to God,
and God will draw near to you.

**Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and God will exalt you.**

O Lord, help us through our worship
to draw closer to you.

**Help us to be humble
and to seek your way.**

+ *Processional Hymn*

“Be Doers of the Word of God”

*Be doers of the word of God,
not simply those who hear.
Be ones who look into God’s word,
obey, and persevere.*

*Be quick to listen, slow to speak,
and slow to anger, too.*

*Put wrath aside; instead, be meek
and let God work in you.*

*Religion that is undefiled,
religion that is pure
will reach to help the orphaned child
and welcome all the poor.*

*If people come here poorly dressed,
to judge them is a sin.*

*The rich aren’t better than the rest;
God welcomes poor ones in.*

*O Christ, you save us by God’s grace
from having to obey.*

*Then freed to love, we can embrace
a life that seeks your way.*

*May we be doers of the word;
may faith shine through our deeds;
and as we seek to trust in God,
may ethics follow creeds.*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2003)

Tune: ELLACOMBE

+ *Doxology—UMH 94*

*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!*

SENDING FORTH

+ *Invitation to Journey*

+ *Hymn of Response*

“O Lord, May All We Say and Do”

*O Lord, may all we say and do
reflect the faith we have in you;
for faith is meant to change the way
we live our lives from day to day.*

*Just as a spark can start a fire,
our words can damage or inspire;
we pray for wisdom from above
to speak and act in gentle love.*

*May we not covet earthly things
or seek the riches this world brings;
may we not boast of all our plans,
for, Lord, our lives are in your hands.*

*O Lord, possessions rust away,
but your love fills us every day;
through prayer and service in your name,
may we live out the faith we claim.*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2012)

Tune: OLD 100th

+ *Sending Forth to Serve*

+ *Benediction*

+ *Postlude*

Matthew Bogart

“A Grace-filled Heart”

Toccata Improvisation on Amazing Grace

**We know that we cannot earn your love,
but we can respond to your love.**

**You call us to live holy lives
out of gratitude for all that you have done for us.**

We thank you for people who find joy in the midst of trials and difficulties:

**for the hospital patient who gives hope and inspiration to the visitor,
for the homeless person who teaches the social worker the meaning
of faith,
for the family that prays together in the face of death.**

We thank you for those who endure temptation:

**for the young person who says “no” to a friend who wants
to shoplift,
for the office worker who refuses to join in negative conversation,
for the company executive who puts justice before profits.**

We thank you for those who are ever-generous in giving to others:

**for the child who puts her allowance in the church’s mission
offering,
for the young adult at a first job who dares to tithe his new income,
for the neighbor who gets up at four in the morning to help an
elderly neighbor in any way possible.**

We thank you for those who are quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger:

**for couples who listen to each other in love,
for people who count to ten before speaking their minds and then
speak gently,
for people who remain calm and loving when others’ tempers flare.**

We thank you for people who live out their faith by caring for orphans, widows and others in need:

**for foster parents and adoptive parents,
for those who seek to work for peace and justice so that fewer people
will be orphaned and widowed,
for those who share a cup of coffee with a lonely neighbor,
for those who visit in nursing homes.**

We thank you for people who are doers of the word and not hearers only.

**O God, may we be counted among them.
Help us to hear your word and to find joy in doing what you call us
to do.
May we live our lives in thankful obedience. Amen.**

Offering

“Give Me Jesus”
Ryan Jones, Baritone

Moses Hogan

+ *Call to Confession*

The letter of James promises, “Blessed is anyone who endures temptation” (1:12). Yet we know that too often we give in to temptation and do what is wrong. Let us confess our sins together before God.

+ *Unison Prayer of Confession*

O God, we want to have our cake and eat it, too:

we want to be a friend of the world and still be your friend.

Yet, Jesus taught us: “No one can serve two masters.”

Give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight:

help us to seek your kingdom first.

Help us to live faithfully and joyfully in the world,

and to be friends with the people you call us to serve.

Help us also to remember that our best relationship

is the one we have with you,

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ *Assurance of Forgiveness*

“The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy” (James 3:17). In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and we are given a new way to live. Let us accept God’s grace, and live new lives of faith, obedience, and joy.

+ *Gloria Patri—UMH 70*

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*

“A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.” (James 3:18)

**Let us make peace by sharing the goodness of Christ with
one another.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* After the passing of the peace, please be seated. *

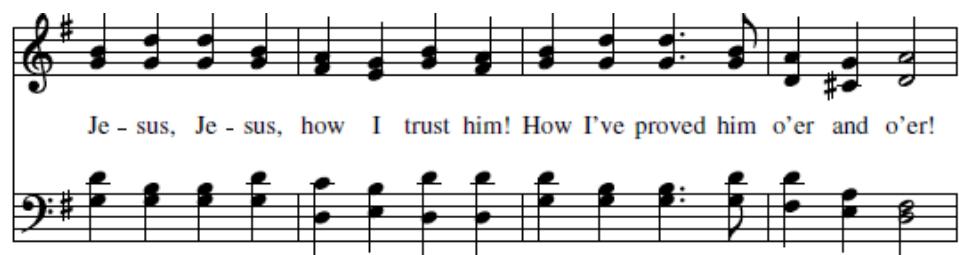
PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

From the Psalter—Psalm 124 (Musical Setting)

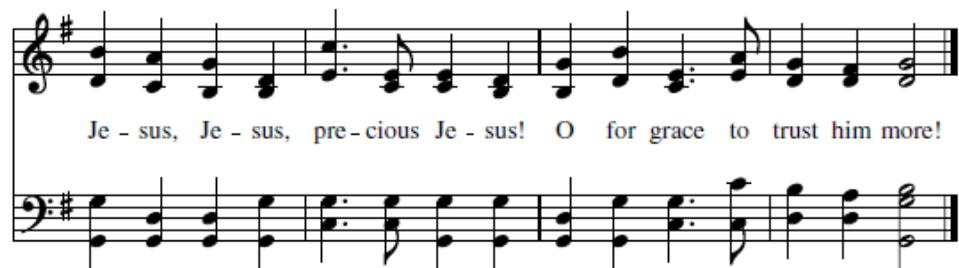
If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
let Israel now say—
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when foes rose up against us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then the raging waters
would have gone over us.
Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!
We have escaped as a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!
Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer



Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!



Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust him more!

Prayers of the People

Anthem

arr. David Ashley White

“Amazing Grace”

Chancel Choir & Dr. Courtenay Harter, Oboe

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

New Testament Reading—James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Sermon

Rev'd Dr. Jeffords

“So That We May Be Healed”

Litany of Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you this day for Christians
who seek to live out their faith in their everyday lives.