

## APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead 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 one holy Universal Christian Church. The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

### COMMUNION PRAYER (Responsively)

Pastor: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

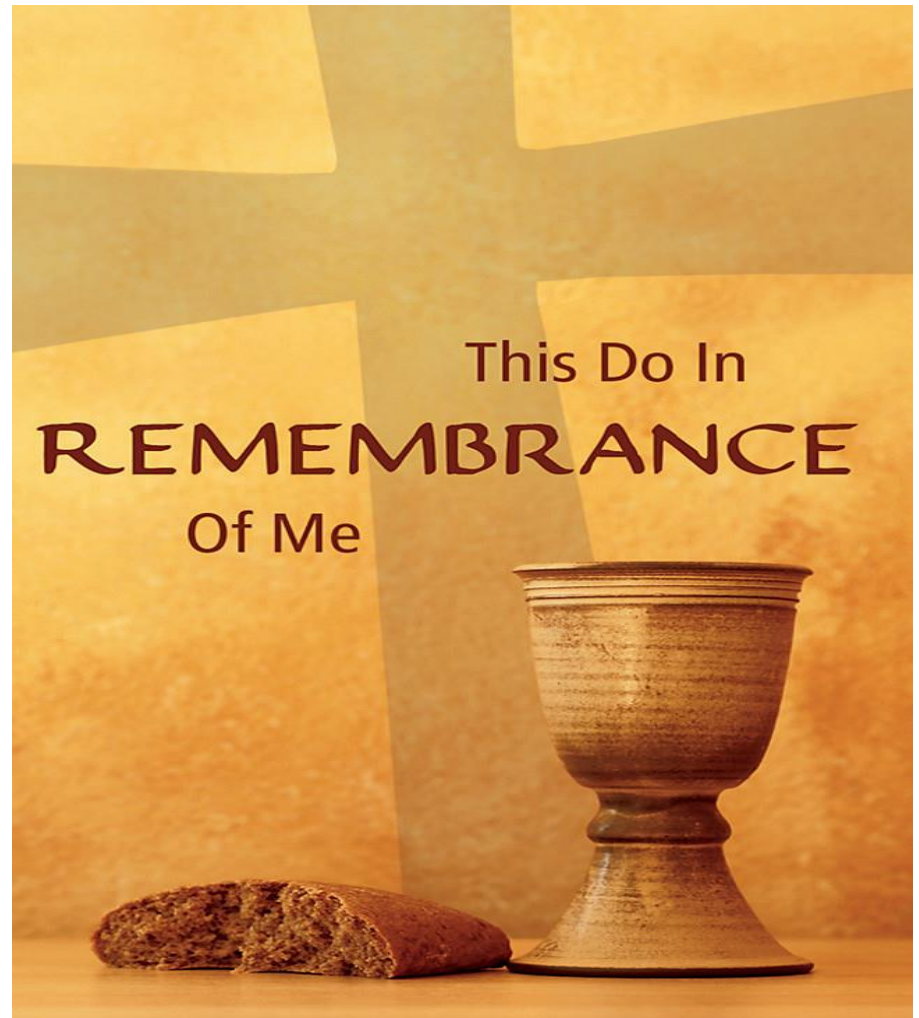
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

## Welcome to St. John's United Church of Christ



*We are happy to welcome everyone attending  
St. John's United Church of Christ. May  
God Bless you with His abundant love.*

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Spiritual Communion Sunday**

**September 3, 2023**

**10:15**

**PRELUDE** "Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING** (Responsively)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love  
of God, and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The power of the Holy Spirit moves  
among us!

**People: Praise the Lord!**

**OPENING HYMN** "*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*"

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsively)

Leader: We are standing on holy ground.

**People: All those who have gone before us have  
witnessed to the love of God.**

Leader: We are challenged to be people of loving  
service

**People: Lord, open our hearts and spirits to accept  
the call to serve you by helping others.**

**ALL: AMEN.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We  
have faltered in our service to you. Our lives are in

turmoil and we confess that we have turned away  
from you. It is fear and anger that too often  
surrounds us and our actions become based on those  
fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts  
overflowing with grace and compassion. Remind us  
that we are called to be strong voices of hope for  
those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be  
a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give  
nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope.  
Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. In  
Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**"GLORIA PATRI"**

**#623**

Special Music By Laura Doty

"Abide with Me"

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Exodus 2:1–10

Psalm 105:11-12 Matthew 16:24-27

**TODAY'S MESSAGE** "She-Spies of Israel"

Pastor Laura Doty

**DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS**

"Doxology"

**#625**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Prayers of the People – Kelly Harris

Pastoral, The Lord's Prayer (Debts, Debtors)