

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Bringing People to Christ and Christ to People"

First Sunday each month - Communion Service 9:45 a.m.

PRELUDE (*Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (**Please rise in body or spirit.*)

Leader: People of God, from every nation, tongue, and creed, gather and listen! Around the world, the table is set, and the banquet of God is prepared for all.

People: We come to share in the Bread of Life, to be united with Christ and with one another in his global Body.

Leader: Let us worship God, the source of all grace and unity, and go forth to feed others with the feast of God's peace.

People: For God welcomes all to the table of the Kingdom, and we are called to be part of that feast. Amen.

***HYMN** God of Grace and God of Glory UMH 577 vs 1,3,4

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 12:38-44

³⁸ As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.” The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

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. Amen.

***BLESSING THE OFFERING**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION One Bread, One Body **UMH 620**

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:11-32

MESSAGE “Embrace Widely”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION IN UNISON: Today, God, we confess fumbings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences.

COMMUNION

UMH 13

***HYMN** The Church’s One Foundation **UMH 545 vs 1,2,4**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION** "May the grace of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, pour out on you. May the love that brings us together at this table fill your hearts and minds and send you out as one

people to share the bread of life with all who are hungry. May the Holy Spirit guide you in works of peace and justice until we gather again at Christ's banquet table. Amen".

***EXTINGUISHING OF ALTAR CANDLES**

***POSTLUDE**