

Welcome to  
**John Calvin Presbyterian Church**

12120 Bridgeton Square Drive, Bridgeton, MO, 63044 | (314) 739-3066 | JCPChurch.org



# *The Parable of the Sower*

**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost- Year A**

**Lectionary Readings:** Genesis 25:19-34 | Psalm 119:105-112 | Romans 8:1-11 | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*Welcome- we are so glad you are here!*

# Gathering for God's Word

## PRELUDE

Steve Dill

## WELCOME AND COMMUNITY SHARING

## OPENING SONG

"Let Everything that Has Breath"

Praise Team

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

**So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....**

God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

**Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.**

God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

**These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.**

Welcome to this day – a time to scatter broadly!

**May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist

Lord of justice and mercy,

We come to you this day

seeking your healing and reconciling love.

Help us to be open to your word, your presence, your compassion.

Clear our hearts of those things which blind us to your will.

Keep us focused on your enabling power so that

we, having been healed, may more fully serve you.

In Jesus' Name, we pray. **Amen.**

**PRAISE SONG**  
“Come Thou Fount”

Praise Team

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

John Hughes

As much as we try not to stray, we do.  
As much as we try to follow God’s word, we don’t.  
As we continue our journey into deeper faith,  
Trusting in God’s abounding grace, let us confess our sins.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we are quick to say,  
“We don’t know.”  
“We didn’t mean to.”  
“We didn’t expect that to happen.”  
But we have not tended the soil of our lives.  
We let it stay shallow and rocky  
by not learning from the experience of others.  
We let it be riddled with thorns  
by succumbing to our own prejudices.  
Life-giving God,  
help us to tend our soil.  
Open us to being challenged,  
enable us to learn,  
so that your word will take root  
and bear fruit in our lives.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FORGIVINESS**

John Hughes

Hear the good news!  
Christ died for us,  
Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us,  
Christ prays for us.  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
We can believe the gospel;  
In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

John Hughes

May the peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC** “Hymn of Promise”

Megan Miller, Soloist

## **Proclaiming God’s Word**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Liturgist

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that in understanding, we may believe, and in believing we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Liturgist

Isaiah 55:10-13 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the LORD's renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure forever."

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

John Hughes

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear."

<sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time.

When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

## **SERMON**

John Hughes

## **Responding to God’s Word**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

John Hughes

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION FOR THE OFFERING**

Liturgist

With our gifts this morning we show our trust in God who spreads the word or grace and redemption abundantly. In our gifts we let go of thinking that we are on our own and live each day in graceful dependence on God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

## **OFFERING**

*Offerings can be made near the sanctuary entrance prior to worship or at the communion table following worship.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Hughes

Let us Pray.

Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings, we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our salvation and our God. Amen.

## ✠ DOXOLOGY

### **Sending**

## CLOSING SONG

“How Great is Our God”

Praise Team

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

John Hughes

Go out from this place in the assurance  
that the God of our comings and goings  
spreads the gospel of grace abundantly.  
Tend your soil, be fruitful, and be boldly generous.

May the peace of God be in your heart  
The grace of God be in your words  
The love of God be in your hands  
The joy of God be in your soul  
and in the song that your life sings.  
**Amen.**

**Some elements of the liturgy come from:**

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# JCPC Prayer List

## JCPC Family

**Cindy Lay**  
**Kathy Doty**  
**Elva Holder**  
**Mary Smith**

**Bob Messersmith**  
**Kelley Maerz**  
**Kinquist Family**  
**Heather Wolz**

**Donna Lindsey**  
**Virginia Messersmith**

## Members in a Care Facility

**Arlene Walters**

## Friends of Our JCPC Family

**Junia Thompson and Family**- Missionaries  
in Indonesia

**Denise Kinquist**- S. Kinquist sister

**Mark Kesner**, K. Doty's cousin

**Melanie Williams-Harvey**, R. Kinquist  
sister

**Charles Barnes**, S. Tyler's son-in-law

**Amelia Sanchez**, S. Tyler's great  
granddaughter

**Kelly Koch**, H. Wolz' uncle

**Marie Gross**, C. Lay's stepmother

**Lola**- H. Wolz niece

**Rob Hanson**- Barb Hanson's son

**Chad Grellner**- friend of Ken and Mary  
Myers

**Laura Barnum**- niece of Charles and Susan  
Barnum

**Rick Kraft**- Mark Miller friend

**Jerry Hahn**- V. Messersmith brother -in-law

**Jeanie Rhodes**- Audrey Hahn's daughter  
friend

**Steve**- Van Buren friend

**Emily McDonnell**- Kara Myers' friend

**Debbie Richie-Raymer**- Cindy Lay friend

**Jessica White**- R. Kinquist friend

**Edna**- R. Whitten sister-in-law

**Aaron and spouse**- friends of Kelley and  
Bryan Maerz

**Randy Clark**- S. Kaczmariski friend

**Rosalie Calvin**- D. Calvin's mother

**Rev. Melissa Kathryn Leo**

**Melissa**- Friend of H. Wolz

**McGee Family**- Messersmith neighbors

## Joys and Thanksgiving



## Faith Formation

### Women's Movie Discussion Group Sunday Mornings | 9 AM

Join our Sunday morning women's movie discussion group as they watch and discuss the films and the various ways they connect to our faith and theology. Join us at 9 AM for a time of fellowship before we begin viewing.

## Mission

### Community Helping Ministry



#### CHM NEEDS:

**Cereal (URGENT NEED)**

Pasta Sauce

Dried/Canned Beans

*Financial contributions* can be made via CHM mailbox in church office and food contributions can be made in the **welcome area**. Please do not leave donated food in warehouse area.

#### **Are you or your family in need of food or any other kind of assistance?**

Please contact Liza Browning at (314) 770-2216 or email [communityhelpingministry@yahoo.com](mailto:communityhelpingministry@yahoo.com).

## Worship at Life Care Center

Our outreach committee is looking for volunteers who may be interested in helping lead worship at the Bridgeton Life Care center. We are currently planning to hold a service each month at their facility as a ministry to those who call the Life Care Center home. We are looking for a variety of help, and if you are interested, please reach out to Amy Brixey ([bisskut27@gmail.com](mailto:bisskut27@gmail.com)).

## Community

### Sunday Morning Help Needed

We are looking for help with counting following Sunday morning worship and are looking for someone who can volunteer once or twice a month after worship. For additional details please contact Gil Elliott or the church office. Some computer experience requested.

### Don't Miss Out on our Weekly Update email!

Don't miss out on receiving our weekly update email each Friday. This email provides important updates regarding life at JCPC and links to sign up for a variety of opportunities. To sign up to receive this email, visit [JCPChurch.org](http://JCPChurch.org)

## Welcome John Hughes!

We welcome John Hughes who joins us this morning in leading worship! John worked as a professor of history from St. Louis Community College for over 30 years, and now serves in a variety of ministry roles in St. Louis, MO. We are excited to have him joining us today!

### Updated Directory Information Needed!

We are preparing an updated church directory, and we need your help in providing updated information.

Please visit [JCPChurch.org/directory](http://JCPChurch.org/directory), or scan the QR code below, and fill out the form to provide your updated information.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.



Thank you to all of those who participated in the Bridgeton 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade! We want to give a super special thanks to Mary Myers, Ken Myers, Kara Myers, Robin Kinquist, and Mary Smith for helping to build our awesome boom box parade float!

**Please submit announcements and information for weekly bulletin and website to Matt Miller ([office@jepchurch.org](mailto:office@jepchurch.org)) no later than by the Tuesday of the desired week.**

## Get Involved this week!

### Sunday

9 AM | Women's Movie Discussion Group  
 10:30 AM | Worship

## July Birthdays

Regan Cook	07/03
Rachelle Calvin	07/04
Sandra Barclay	07/08
Graham Schnettler	07/08
Chris Moore	07/11
Ann Thackrey	07/11
Marge Kellar	07/13
Rosalea Vogler	07/28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						9:30 am Presbyterian Women Monthly Gathering <span style="float: right;">1</span>
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group <span style="float: right;">2</span> 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:45 am Board Game Sunday!	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766 <span style="float: right;">3</span>	9:00 am Bridgeton Fourth of July Parade <span style="float: right;">4</span>	11:00 am ROMEOS <span style="float: right;">5</span>	7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous <span style="float: right;">6</span>		<span style="float: right;">7</span> <span style="float: right;">8</span>
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group <span style="float: right;">9</span> 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766 <span style="float: right;">10</span>	<span style="float: right;">11</span>	11:00 am ROMEOS <span style="float: right;">12</span>	7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous <span style="float: right;">13</span>		<span style="float: right;">14</span> <span style="float: right;">15</span>
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group <span style="float: right;">16</span> 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766 <span style="float: right;">17</span>	<span style="float: right;">18</span>	11:00 am ROMEOS <span style="float: right;">19</span>	7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous <span style="float: right;">20</span>		<span style="float: right;">21</span> <span style="float: right;">22</span>
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group <span style="float: right;">23</span> 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766 <span style="float: right;">24</span>	<span style="float: right;">25</span>	11:00 am ROMEOS <span style="float: right;">26</span>	7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous <span style="float: right;">27</span>		<span style="float: right;">28</span> <span style="float: right;">29</span>
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group <span style="float: right;">30</span> 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766 <span style="float: right;">31</span>					

# Welcome to John Calvin Presbyterian Church

*We are so glad you are here!*

- ✦ Please feel free to stop by our welcome area and get a nametag if you do not already have one.
- ✦ Our worship and communion services are open to all. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your time with us more welcoming and comfortable.
- ✦ Please see any of our greeters or ushers if you have any accessibility needs/requests.
- ✦ **Restrooms** are located across the hall from the sanctuary entrance as well as in the fellowship area. Please see an usher if you need directions.
- ✦ Please feel free to join us for fellowship time following worship!

**For more information on John Calvin Presbyterian Church, please visit [JCPChurch.org](http://JCPChurch.org)!**

## **Do you have a passion to serve?**

We are always in need of members and volunteers to help serve in various ways at John Calvin Presbyterian Church! If you feel called to serve, please contact the church office, or see any of the worship stewards, and we will be happy to connect you with the appropriate team!

**“There is one body, but many parts. But all parts make up one body.  
So it is with Christ.”**

-1 Corinthians 12:12-

Thank you for your consideration!