

Welcome to  
**John Calvin Presbyterian Church**

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



**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 | 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost- Year A**

**Lectionary Readings:** Exodus 17:1-7 | Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 | Philippians 2:1-13 | Matthew 21:23-32

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

# Gathering for God's Word

## WELCOME AND COMMUNITY SHARING

### OPENING SONG

"God of Wonders"

Praise Team

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Presbyterian Church of Colombia*

Liturgist

We gather from the west to the east,  
from the south to the north,  
to celebrate the God of peace  
who accompanies us in our acts of peace.  
This God of peace accompanies us  
in each and every circumstance around us.  
We praise God's name! Amen!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Zimbabwe*

Liturgist

Our God who is,  
Our Creator God,  
Our Heavenly Father.  
Bless us with discomfort at easy answers,  
half-truths and superficial relationships.  
Bless us with anger at injustice,  
oppression and exploitation of people.  
Bless us with tears to shed  
for those who suffer from pain,  
rejection, starvation and war.  
Bless us with enough foolishness  
to believe that we can make a difference in this world.  
In the name of the Father,  
and the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

#285: "In Christ There is No East or West"

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East*

Liturgist

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings.  
In the knowledge of God's mercy,  
we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world.  
In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious Lord, creator of this universe,  
in your generosity you have given us  
a world of abundance and diversity,  
yet we live guided by greed and selfishness.  
We confess that we have defaced your creation  
and poisoned our environment  
through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain.  
In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters  
and intended for us to be united,  
and yet we have built walls to separate us  
from those who are different from us.  
You gave us wisdom and creativity  
and we have used those to trick each other  
and to develop weapons of destruction and death.  
You gave us laws to order our lives  
and we have abused them  
to take revenge and punish our enemies.  
We love war rather than strive for peace.  
We ignore the poor and the weak  
and honored the rich and powerful.  
In all this we have not lived according to your will.  
Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements  
and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise.  
In your mercy, forgive us our sins.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Phil. 3:9; Eph. 2:17*

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

“God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,”  
through whom our sins were forgiven.  
May he help us to continue  
to “preach peace to those who are near and far.” **Amen.**

## **GLORI PATRI**

## **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **ANTHEM**

“Praise You in this Storm”

JCPC Adult Choir

## **Proclaiming God’s Word**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren*

Liturgist

Holy Spirit, grant us openness  
and give us understanding  
of what each one of us needs to receive  
through Holy Scripture.  
When we are facing a difficult choice  
between the easy and the right decision,  
help us to choose the narrow path.  
We also pray for all  
who are about to set on an adventurous journey of faith  
anywhere in the world. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Liturgist

Exodus 17:1-7 (NIV)

### **Water From the Rock**

<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

<sup>3</sup> But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

<sup>4</sup> Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

<sup>5</sup> The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And he called the place Massah and Meriba because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

## SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

Matthew 21:23-32 (NIV)

### **The Authority of Jesus Questioned**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>25</sup> John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

### **The Parable of the Two Sons**

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

<sup>29</sup> "I will not," he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

<sup>30</sup> "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup> "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him."

## **SERMON**

“Healing Broken Communion Under Apartheid”

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

### **Responding to God’s Word**

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

##### **The Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

## **OFFERING**

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

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

## **Holy Communion**

## **SONG OF PREPARATION**

Praise Team

“One Bread, One Body”

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

This is the table to which Jesus invites us!  
Let us participate joyfully!

God-planted seeds now germinate  
A tree of life, an orchard bearing fruit  
Such is nature, abundant life budding,  
And Jesus sets the table, invites us to dine.

Water into wine, land where bread is born,  
A people on the path of perfect communion.

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may retell  
our common stories together  
and reshape our common bonds together,  
and remember our common grace together,  
in the communion of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, the one in  
whose life and death you have torn down our divisions.

And so may we be one with all who share this feast,  
on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table.  
May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice.  
May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your  
righteousness,  
May we be united with every corner of your story,  
united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose,  
united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. Send us with a  
spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love,  
that we may be witnesses in all creation  
to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust. Keep us  
faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful,  
until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom,  
to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm,  
with you and with your Word, through Christ and in Christ,  
the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us,  
the one who prays even for us, the one who first taught us to pray, saying:



## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

We give thanks for this bread,  
fruit of the earth and hard work,  
a gift of the grace of God.  
We break it and share it,  
remembering the words and actions,  
gestures and glances,  
silences and self-offered life  
of the teacher from Nazareth.  
(Bread is broken and shared)

And we give thanks for the fruit of the vine,  
for the joy of communion,  
for alliances that endure  
in the search for justice and wholeness.  
We take the cup,  
knowing we are part of a community-people  
renewing its covenant with life.

### **BLESSING**

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

The broken bread feeds us,  
It is the body of Jesus  
To unite us in his ways  
Of life and light.

This is the cup of joy,  
a covenant of relationship  
Wellbeing that Christ offers  
To all creation

Each time we share  
The Lord's Supper  
We remember our commitment  
In his love.

## Sending

### CLOSING HYMN

#283: "We Are God's People"

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all from now and forevermore. **Amen.**

**Some elements of the liturgy come from:**  
*Book of Common Worship* | Westminster John Knox Press © 2018  
John Wurster | *Presbyterian Outlook* © 2023

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# JCPC Prayer List

## JCPC Family

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

**Bob Messersmith**  
**Kinquist Family**  
**Heather Wolz**  
**Donna Lindsey**

**Virginia Messersmith**  
**Gil Elliott**  
**Carol Mallette**  
**Sandra Barclay**

## 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

**Rick Kraft**- Mark Miller friend

**Jerry Hahn**- V. Messersmith brother -in-law  
**Steve**- Van Buren friend

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

**Jessica White**- R. Kinquist friend

**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

**Chris Hanson**- Barb Hanson son

**Lucido family**- Van Buren friends

**Sarah Dilallo**- Kara Myers ' friend

Those dealing with mental health issues

**Prokhodova Family**

## Joys and Thanksgiving

**Kelley Maerz**

## Upcoming Events



### **Church Potluck Luncheon** **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> | Noon**

Join us after worship on October 22<sup>nd</sup> for our annual potluck luncheon!

Sign-up to bring your favorite dish to share in the welcome area.

## 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.

This month our Women's Movie Discussion Group will be watching and discussing the Netflix film *My Octopus Teacher*.

## Mission

### **Community Helping Ministry**



#### **CHM NEEDS:**

*Canned Fruit*  
*Cereal*  
*Jelly*

*Financial contributions* can be made via CHM mailbox in church office and food contributions can be made in the **welcome 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)

### AV HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for help with our Sunday morning audio and visual team. If you are interested in volunteering to help once a month, please contact the church office.

Thank you for your consideration!

## 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.



### 2024 Budget Wish-List

The Finance Committee has begun discussing the budget for 2024, and they are asking for **input from individual committees between now and October 1st**. The Finance Committee is asking for committees to submit preliminary requests (a "wish list" for your committee/group budget) which will help guide the budget making process for the upcoming fiscal year. These requests are not guaranteed and will be based on pledges for the upcoming year; however, these requests will help the finance committee see where funds are needed and how to best craft the budget for next year.

**Please submit announcements and information for weekly bulletin and website to Matt Miller ([office@jpcchurch.org](mailto:office@jpcchurch.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

### Thursday

6:00 PM | Adult Choir

## September Birthdays

Jason Baker	09/01
Bob Teahan	09/03
Michael Basso	09/07
Ken Myers	09/07
Jennifer Baker	09/08
Cindy Lay	09/11
Brenda Schnettler	09/14
Dennis Basso	09/15
Jim Cook	09/16
Chad Brixey	09/22
Shirley Kaczmariski	09/28
Sue Tyler	09/28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:45 am Board Game Sunday!	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	5	11:00 am ROMEOS	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Property Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	8	9
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	12	11:00 am ROMEOS	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	15	10:00 am Ukrainian Egg Craft Day
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:00 am Church in the Park! 11:00 am 2023 Church Picnic	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	19	11:00 am ROMEOS	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	22	23
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	26	11:00 am ROMEOS	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	29	30

# 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!