

Welcome to

John Calvin Presbyterian Church



*Proclaiming Christ as a church of prayer, outreach,
Bible study, discipling, and worship*

Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 AM

12120 Bridgeton Square Dr.
Bridgeton, MO, 63044
(314) 739-3066



*The Presbytery of
Giddings Lovejoy*



Sunday, December 31st, 2023 | 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-63:3 | Psalm 148 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 2:22-40

Gathering for God's Word

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY SHARING

Rick Kreitner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands —

O prosper the work of our hands!

Let us worship God!

OPENING SONG

“God Will Make a Way”

Praise Team

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist

Almighty God,
you wonderfully created,
and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature.
In your mercy,
let us share the divine love of Jesus Christ
who came to share our humanity,
and who now lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

#160: "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist

Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Scripture also promises us that we are now made right with God by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Acknowledging this truth about ourselves and with gratitude for the truth about God, let us confess our sins in God's presence and before one another.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Liturgist

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri"

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Liturgist

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

JCPC Adult Choir

“Welcome to Our World”

Proclaiming God’s Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

Almighty God, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, may it not return to you empty. May it accomplish that which you purpose. May it succeed in the thing for which you sent it. Open our ears and hearts to your Word that we may live as your children and heirs. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Liturgist

Isaiah 61:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

GOSPEL READING

Rick Kreitner

Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”^[b]

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Responding to God’s Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rick Kreitner

Eternal God, we praise you that in you we live and move and have our being. As you have always guided your people by your grace and mercy, we seek your guidance in the new year. Help us to demonstrate the love of Christ in all we do as a church and in our personal lives. When we worry about life, help us to put our trust in you and strive first for your kingdom and righteousness. In our failures, let us look to you for forgiveness and correction. In our successes, may we give glory to your name rather than brag about our accomplishments.

God of all wisdom, we often do not know how to pray as we ought. Thank you that your Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words, for there is much in our world about which to sigh. Lord, in your mercy we pray for peace, for justice, for reconciliation, for healing, for truth, for new hearts, and for clear vision to see you at work in our world. We pray for the courage to commit ourselves again to Jesus Christ as Lord. May we seek your will in all things, even as Jesus always put your will above his own.

Lord of all time and space, as we mark another year, remind us that in your sight one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. Your steadfast love and mercy are the sure foundation for our lives. We thank you for the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of your Son, our Savior. As your children and heirs, may we lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Hear our prayers, O Lord, incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace as we pray the prayer our Lord taught us:

“Our Father”

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Liturgist

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. Let us give thanks to the Lord as we continue our worship and bring our tithes and offerings.

OFFERING

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

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Liturgist

Gracious and giving God, we give thanks to you for you are good. Your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for the blessings of the past year and for how you have stood with us and guided us in difficult times. We give thanks that you will stand with us and guide us in the year to come. Bless these offerings that they may be used to your glory and in service to others in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Help us to have grateful hearts and to live as the joyful people of God; through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. **Amen.**

Sending

CLOSING SONG

JCPC Praise Team

“Let Everything that Has Breath”

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rick Kreitner

As we leave the old year and enter the new, go with these assurances: The risen Lord says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

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

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JCPC Prayer List

JCPC Family

Cindy Lay
Kathy Doty
Elva Holder
Mary Smith

Kinquist Family
Heather Wolz
Carol Mallette
Sandra Barclay

Randy Clark
Kelley Maerz
Kara Myers

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

Aaron and spouse- friends of Kelley and Bryan Maerz

Rosalie Calvin- D. Calvin's mother

Rev. Melissa Kathryn Leo

Melissa- Friend of H. Wolz

McGee Family- Messersmith neighbors

Chris Hanson- Barb Hanson son
Those dealing with mental health issues

Prokhodov Family

Charlie Mills

Shelly Hynes- Amy Brixey friend

Jessica White's family

Tonya Collen- J. Farley sister in-law

Mark- Jackie Farley cousin

Sue- Van Buren friend, *diagnosed with lung cancer*

Michelle- friend of JCPC

Jack and Tony- C. Lay nephew

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:

Financial Contributions
Canned Meat
Cereal
Canned Fruit
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.

Worship at Life Care Center

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping lead worship at the Bridgeton Life Care center. Services are held each month as a ministry to those who call the Life Care Center home. We are looking for a variety of help, please reach out to Amy Brixey (bisskut27@gmail.com) for more information.



Ukrainian Refugee Support 2023-2024 Mission Campaign

Supporting the Prokhodov Family in their move from war-torn Ukraine to St. Louis, MO.

For more information on our 2023-2024 Mission campaign, visit **JCPChurch.org/mission**.

To donate to this cause via PayPal, use the QR code below!



Please submit announcements and information for weekly bulletin and website to Matt Miller (office@jcpchurch.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

*The church office will be closed from
12/30-1/2/2024.*

Happy New Year!

January Birthdays

NAME

DATE

John Webb	1/03
Robert Messersmith	1/06
Peggy Dill	1/07
Michael Okoe-Mensah	1/07
Todd Van Buren	1/10
Mary Smith	1/13
Jackie Farley	1/16
Lorrie McKelvey	1/16
Jack Barnum	1/22
Brielle Hardy	1/22
Kyle Baker	1/28
Gil Elliott	1/30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America Troop 766 1		11:00 am ROMEOS 3	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 4 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm Property Committee Meeting		
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 7 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America Troop 766 8		11:00 am ROMEOS 10	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 11 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous		
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 14 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America Troop 766 15		11:00 am ROMEOS 17	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 18 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous		
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 21 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America Troop 766 22		11:00 am ROMEOS 24	6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 25 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous		
9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 28 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America Troop 766 29		11:00 am ROMEOS 31			

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!**

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!