



# THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

at  
*St. John's United Methodist Church*  
*Rock Hill, South Carolina*

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## THE SILENT MEDITATION

*"Suffering has been stronger than all other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used to be. I have been bent and broken, but - I hope - into a better shape."*

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

## *The Worship of God*

20 September 2020 at Eleven o'clock in the morning

THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

THE GREETING AND WELCOME

Sarah D. Crockford, *Director of Children's Ministries*

THE INVOCATION

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

*"If Thou Suffer God to Guide Thee"*

Dr. Timothy D. Belflowers, *organ*  
by Marcel Dupré

†THE CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

Leader: *Come and see! God's light is shining brightly.*

People: **God's light shines in us.**

Leader: *When we honor God's commandments,*

People: **God's light shines in us.**

Leader: *When we feed the hungry and give to those in need,*

People: **God's light shines in us.**

Leader: *When we show mercy and compassion,*

People: **God's light shines in us.**

Leader: *We are the light of the world!*

ALL: **God's light shines in us. Amen!**

Rev. Ryan L. Powell, *Associate Pastor*

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,  
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,  
fear will die and hope increase.
3. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,  
earth its destiny may find.

## †THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Modern Affirmation*

Hymnal, No. 885

Leader: *Where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,  
whose holy faith let us now declare:*

**ALL:** We believe in God the Father,  
infinite in wisdom, power, and love,  
whose mercy is over all his works,  
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of man,  
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,  
the ground of our hope,  
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
as the divine presence in our lives,  
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance  
of the truth of Christ,  
and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love  
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,  
to the end that the kingdom of God  
may come upon the earth. Amen.

## †THE GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal, No. 71

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## THE MOMENT FOR CHILDREN

Sarah D. Crockford

## THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Lauren Pace, *soprano*  
by Robert Powell

*"I Will Give Thanks"*

## THE MOMENT FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Rev. Ryan L. Powell

## THE MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

~ continued on next page ~

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Isaiah 58: 1 – 9a

Rev. David C. Surrent, *Senior Pastor*

THE SERMON

Practical Living Sermon Series

*“Suffering and Faith –  
If Life Hurts So Much, Where Is God?”*

THE OFFERING

*“The King of Love”*

Lauren Pace, *soprano*  
by John Ness Beck

~ To give electronically, please use the *“St. John’s UMC – Rock Hill”* app OR text *stjohnsrhgive* to 77977 ~  
The church leadership is deeply grateful for all financial giving in 2020.  
Please remember that due to the virtual worship environment in which we find ourselves, giving has been slowed.  
Please do your best to monitor your giving records and keep them as current as absolutely possible.  
Please contact the business office should you need assistance in any way.  
Again, thanks most greatly!

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†THE CLOSING HYMN

*“Let Us Worship God with Justice”*

Tune: HYMN TO JOY

1. Let us worship God with justice, even as we sing and pray.  
Let us keep the fast God chooses on this day and every day.  
Lift your voice for liberation; speak the truth and never fear,  
for the God of our salvation even now is drawing near.
2. Share your table with the hungry share your plenty with the poor,  
when you see the tired and homeless offer them an open door.  
Comfort those who are afflicted, work to set the captives free.  
Live with kindness, never hiding from your human family.
3. Then your light will shine like morning and your Savior will appear.  
You will call and God will answer: *“faithful servant, I am here.”*  
Then the Holy One will guide you; you will be like living streams.  
God will lift the fallen cities and restore the people’s dreams.
4. Lift your voice for liberation; speak the truth and never fear,  
for the God of our salvation even now is drawing near.  
Keep the fast of faith in action on this day and every day.  
Worship God with peace and justice, even as we sing and pray.

†THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*“Toccata on ‘Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee’”*

Dr. Belflowers, *organ*  
arr. by Mark Thallander



## WELCOME GUESTS

As part of the living Body of Christ, we are called to love as Christ loved. We believe that we are to love and welcome all persons – and by that we mean *ALL*, because each and every person is created in the image of God, is of infinite worth and represents someone “for whom Christ died!” (Rom. 14:15) Therefore, we welcome persons of every race, socioeconomic status, family make-up, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, mental and physical ability and faith story. We invite *ALL* persons to join us on our journey together as we strive to practice loving acceptance of each person and engage in respectful discussion of our differences. To fully experience this welcome, we encourage visitors and new members to become involved in a small group within the Church, such as a Sunday School class, Bible study, ministry group, or volunteer opportunity. To learn more about the life and ministries of our church, visit [www.stjohnsrh.org](http://www.stjohnsrh.org). **Please register your attendance with us by using the link provided during our Livestream of worship today!**

# St. John's United Methodist Church

321 S. Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730 ~ 803-327-3113  
www.stjohnsrh.org



## Serving this Morning

<b>Preacher</b>	David C. Surrent
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Ryan L. Powell Sarah D. Crockford
<b>Music</b>	Timothy D. Belflowers Lauren Pace
<b>Audio Visual Team</b>	Val Kenney Hannah Lunny Evan Crockford

## Our Ministry Staff

Reverend David C. Surrent, *Senior Pastor*  
Reverend Ryan L. Powell, *Associate Pastor*  
Dallas Ball, *Contemporary Worship Coordinator*  
Dr. Timothy D. Belflowers, *Director of Music and Worship & Organist*  
Sharon Booth, *Church Business Administrator*  
Sarah D. Crockford, *Director of Children's Ministries*  
Angela Douglas, *Housekeeper*  
Katie Goodwin, *Director of Weekday Ministries*  
Lexie Grainger, *Nursery Coordinator*  
Linda Greene, *Director of After-School Program*  
Val Kenney, *Director of Youth & College Ministries*  
Hannah Lunny, *Director of Communications*  
David Powell, *Facilities Manager*

