



THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

at

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

The Worship of God

6 September 2020 at Eleven o'clock in the morning

THE SILENT MEDITATION

"Strength is commanding the wind and sea to obey, Strength is wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant. Strength is accepting vulnerability from inside the boat, Strength is standing in solidarity with the powerless. Strength is turning a cheek, Strength is loving an enemy. We come to worship a God who redefines our vision of strength.
~ Katherine Hawker, *Turning a Cheek*

THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

THE GREETING AND WELCOME

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

THE INVOCATION

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

"Improvisation on 'Where Love Is Found'"

Dr. Timothy D. Belflowers, *organ*
setting by James Biery

†THE CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

Rev. Ryan L. Powell, *Associate Pastor*

Leader: *We are here to praise the God of Love.*

People: **We are here to bow before God, whose love surpasses all knowledge.**

Leader: *We are invited by God to be rooted and grounded in love*

People: **We praise God, whose love dwells in our hearts**

Leader: *We come to worship the God who gives us the fullness of life.*

ALL: **Let us worship God, whose love knows no bounds.**

†THE OPENING HYMN

"Come Down, O Love Divine"

Hymnal, No. 475

1. **Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**
2. **O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**
3. **And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far out pass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place
where in the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

†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 Eric H. Thiman

"The God of Love My Shepherd Is"

THE MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Ryan L. Powell

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.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5: 38—48

Rev. David C. Surrent, *Senior Pastor*

THE SERMON

Practical Living Sermon Series

*"How to Deal with Difficult People:
'I Have a Hard Time Loving You'"*

THE OFFERING

"Devotion"

Lauren Pace, *soprano*
setting 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 very best to check your giving records and keep them as current as absolutely possible.
Please contact the business office if you need assistance in any way.
Again, thanks most greatly!

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†THE CLOSING HYMN

"O Love, How Deep"

Hymnal, No. 267

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high, it fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God the Son, of God should take our mortal form for mortals' sake!
2. For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore,
for us temptation sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.
3. For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here, to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
4. All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore, forever and forever more.

alt. tune: THE GIFT OF LOVE

†THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Dr. Belflowers, *organ*

"Improvisation on 'Down Ampney'"

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. **Please register your attendance with us by using the link provided during our Livestream of worship today!**



Serving this Morning

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

Our Ministry Staff

Reverend David C. Surrett, *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*



St. John's United Methodist Church

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www.stjohnsrh.org