

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Threshold Moment

Pastor Sue

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and
take up their cross and follow me”

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” – 1 Verse

Pastor Sue

Again, and again in the Gospels, Jesus says, “Follow me.”
But the path Christ laid before us requires perseverance,
discipline, faith – and companionship.
Christ is with us, not only by his Spirit
but also in his Body, his church,
those “friends in faith”
whom we encourage along the way
and who encourage us in return.

“Friends in Faith” – Verse 1

Friends in faith who follow Jesus,
hear the message of the cross:
Worldly wisdom now is folly;
worldly riches count as loss.

The season of Lent is a journey.

As we journey, we discover what Jesus was up to in this time
and we are called to ask ourselves what we are up to in Jesus’ name.
Today, we see Jesus come up out of the waters of the Jordan River
and hear “You are my beloved.”
Jesus calls us to come up out of the depths
of whatever seeks to keep us under
and know that we are beloved of God.

"Friends in Faith – Verse 2

Friends who strive to follow Jesus,
walk the way that Jesus trod;
Spirit filled, in human weakness,
cast your cares upon our God.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, you have made covenant with us
and with every living creature.
We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow
for it reminds you and us of your promise:
that the flood of destruction will not be the last word.
We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism,
the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
And we thank you for the sign of the dove,
the promise of your Holy Spirit.
Hovering over the dawn of creation,
descending upon your beloved Son,
your Spirit also hovers over and descends on us.
With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor.
In your triune name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn**

"We Are Often Tossed and Driven"

NCH 444

Children's Time

Psalm 25:1-9

Bella Nelson and Aliyah Fourie

My soul is in the palm of my hands, God
and I'm lifting it up to give it to you.
I trust you with it God.

I trust that you won't let them make fun of me or humiliate me.

Don't let those of us who count on you be put to shame.

Let the plans of the wicked, sneaky people fall to pieces.

Show me how to follow your path.

I want to walk in love and faithfulness.

Lead me in your truth and teach me.

You are the God who saves me. I've trusted you ever since I can remember.

Your compassion and love have no beginning and will have no end.

They go on forever.

Don't remember the things I've done wrong.

Instead remember that you love me because you are kind and good.

Show me how to follow your path.

I want to walk in love and faithfulness.

God, you are gracious and the only one
who can teach us the right way to live.

You are willing to guide those who are willing to learn.

The paths that lead in your direction are love and faithfulness.

Those who are in relationship with you will always walk in your direction.

Show me how to follow your path.

I want to walk in love and faithfulness.

Gospel Mark 1:9-11, 14-15 –

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee,
and John baptized him in the Jordan River.

While he was coming up out of the water,

Jesus saw heaven splitting open
and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him.

And there was a voice from heaven:

"You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

After John was arrested,

Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying,

"Now is the time!

Here comes God's kingdom!

Change your hearts and lives and trust this good news!"

Sermon

Hymn - "Spirit Song" 311 STTL

Prayers of the People

Steadfast God, thank you for sheltering us in the storms of life.
Thank you for ministering to us through angels seen and unseen
in times that test us.

Thank you for claiming us as a people beloved forever.

Because of your great love and care for us,
we trust you in our brightest joys and deepest needs.
We rejoice when dark clouds of trouble are overtaken
by the light of your presence and new possibilities,
when things settle down after a time of tossing about,
when the great storm is over,
and when the promise of resurrection life takes hold in us
with sure and certain hope.

Loving God, in life and death, we belong to you.
So in the midst of life, we entrust ourselves to your care.
We are bold to ask for help when we are confused, lost, or afraid.
We are eager to ask for healing for our bodies and minds,
whether wounded, ill, or recovering.

And we are unceasing in our prayers for those we love
who are far from us physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
In the midst of death and grief, even though we are weary,
we return again and again, praying for comfort,
for an easing of the pain that comes from loss
and for the light of your presence to pierce the present darkness.

As the heavens were torn open at Jesus' baptism,
and the curtain in the temple was torn at his crucifixion,
so now tear open anything that divides us from you
or hides your presence in our lives or in the church.

We desire to hear your voice of life,
to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,

and to see you clearly.

Lead us to serve others faithfully as disciples of Jesus
in whose name we pray as he teaches us to pray saying
**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Response

Call to the Offering

If you are worshipping with us on Facebook
you can send your offering to
St. John's Chapel 4344 S Fremont
Springfield MO 65804

or you can go to our website at
www.stjohnschapel.org and contribute electronically

Because we believe that in Jesus Christ,
God's time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near,
we repond in tangible ways.

By doing acts of justice and compassion
and by sharing our resources,
we bear witness to the good news of the gospel.
The offering is received in gratitude to God.

Offertory

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**
God of steadfast love,
Receive, we ask, these offerings,
and use them for your own good purposes
in the church and in all creation
We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn**
"Arise Your Light Is Come" NCH 164

***Sending/Benediction**
May the God of covenant faithfulness enfold you;
the Beloved Son encourage you;
and the Holy Spirit descend upon you in blessing
this day and forever. Amen.

***Response**
"Friends in Faith" – verse 4
Firm in faith, now follow Jesus;
live the gospel you have heard;
Be good news to all who know you,
loving doers of the Word.

Postlude
Please be seated for the postlude