

# *Feeding Us With*



## *Hope and Challenge*

*Pre-Worship Meditation: Mary's role is not limited to giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John's gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful, and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.*

08/17/2025

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost / Mary, Mother of Jesus  
St. John United Church of Christ**

## ***Ring of the Bell***

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: As we begin our Prelude, let us focus our hearts on worshipping our loving God.

## ***Prelude***

### ***Welcome and Brief Announcements***

**\* Hymn: #184, What Child Is This?**

### ***Call to Worship (Psalm 34:1-9)***

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

**Many: I will glory in the Lord; let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

One: Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt God's name together.

**Many: I sought the Lord, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors.**

One: Look upon the Lord and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

**Many: I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.**

One: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord and delivers them.

**Many: Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!**

One: Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,

**Many: For those who fear the Lord lack nothing.**

### ***\* Prayer of Invocation (Praying Together)***

**Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **God's Word**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 61:7-11**

Because [the] shame [of God's people] was double,  
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,  
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;  
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

<sup>8</sup> For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so  
the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

***Pastoral Reflection – Part 1 – “This Was A Royal Announcement”***

**Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

***Pastoral Reflection – Part 2 – “God’s Grace As An Inheritance”***

***Joyful Musical Interlude***

**Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46-55**

Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;  
<sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

***Pastoral Reflection – Part 3 – “Haunting Words From Mary”***

**Hymn: Mary Did You Know? (Insert)**

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Lord’s Prayer**

***OFFERING / Offertory,***

Leader: We stand, singing the Doxology, as our Offerings are presented.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above the Heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**All: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us around our tables of grace with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Leader: As we prepare to end our worship today, we offer one more prayer – a prayer for our new settled pastor. Please pray with me. **O Great Divine, we trust and believe that you have already identified who this kind and caring person will be. Our new shepherd, who will journey with this congregation for the years ahead. As we wait for you to reveal that person to us, provide us patience, understanding, and a willingness to become extravagantly welcoming. In your great name we pray. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: #237, The Hands That First Held Mary's Child**

### ***\*Benediction***

Leader: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace.

**All: Our Worship has ended... Now let our service begin. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

### ***Postlude***

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Pastor David Kohls</b>
<b>Musicians</b>	<b>Ebenezer – Norm &amp; Marty Forman</b>
	<b>Elaine Hessil</b>
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Ebenezer – Stephanie</b>
<b>Usher</b>	<b>Ebenezer – Karen</b>
	<b>St. John – Wendy</b>
	<b>St. John – Donna</b>

## **Announcements**

**A Loving Welcome:** A loving welcome to all who are here today. If you are a guest or visitor, please feel free to sign our guest book located in the back of the church and help yourself to our information. And please remember that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**Newsletter Articles Due:** Friday, August 22.

### ***At St. John:***

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, August 19 at 4:30 p.m.

**Devotionals:** September – November Our Daily Breads are available on the table and rack in the narthex.

**Sign-Ups:** If you are interested in signing up for the Outreach Committee, the Security Ministry Team, Narcan training, Our Future Is Now Planning Team, or to assist with Sunday School, sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**Sunday School Aides:** We are looking to provide additional support for our Sunday school superintendents. Anyone eighteen years or older may be part of this program; a background check is required. If we can obtain enough volunteers, you may only be needed one Sunday per month. A sign-up sheet is in the Foyer.

### ***At Ebenezer:***

**Guest Musicians:** We welcome Norm and Marty Forman from Fulton, Missouri as they add their musical gospel messages to worship this morning. A free will offering basket is available at the sanctuary entrance. Their vibrant music adds a new dimension to worship.

**Women's Guild Meeting:** Thursday, August 21 at 9:00 a.m. at 7 Angels.

**Sunday Night Bible Study** returns September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**Devotionals:** September – October Upper Rooms are available on the rack in the narthex.

**Appalachia Service Project Presentation:** Please join us next Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> for a presentation by Jake Propson. Jake, a recent confirmand at Ebenezer and the son of Joel and Jenny Propson, recently went on a mission trip with the Appalachia Service Project, which is a group of individuals who travel to help people and families in great need of home repair, disaster recovery and many other things. Be sure to attend to learn more about his trip and mission experience!

**Transportation Assistance:** One of Ebenezer UCC's members at Century Ridge, Linda, is in need of assistance getting to church on Sundays. If you are able to give her an occasional ride to church, please contact her niece, Sarah, at 920-459-8715.

### **Prayers of Joys and Concerns\***

David ~ Jan ~ Jeanette ~ Penny ~ Ruth ~ Susan

*\*Contact the office to add or remove from this prayer list*

### **St. John Council Members**

President: Jim Sommers (920) 894-2350  
(2-year term starting 2025)

Secretary: Lynn Kind (920) 378-2173  
(2<sup>nd</sup> 2-year term starting 2025)

Treasurer & Congregational President:  
Derek Beyer (920) 979-2017  
(2<sup>nd</sup> 2-year term starting 2024)

Vice-President: Garry Preder (920) 838-0714  
(2-year term starting 2025)

Trustee: Penny Geiger (920) 266-6324  
(2<sup>nd</sup> 2-year term starting 2024)

*\*If anyone would like something put on the St. John website, please contact Phil Vergowe at  
**pjvergowe@outlook.com***

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