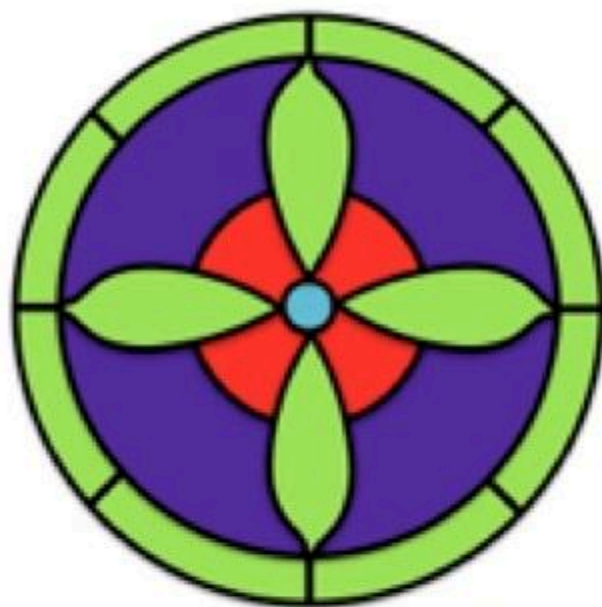




ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Richmond † Texas

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENECCOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
8:30 & 11:00AM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP

You are invited to use this bulletin during our live worship service at 11:00am on Sunday morning. To access our live worship, please [click here](#).

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalms 105*)

Leader: He spread a cloud for a covering and fire to give light by night.

People: They asked, and he brought quails and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

Leader: He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

People: For he remembered his holy promise and Abraham, his servant.

Leader: So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

All: He gave them the lands of the nations, that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.
Praise the LORD!

SONG OF PRAISE

"Come, Thou Almighty King" #61

Come, Thou Almighty King, help us Thy name to sing
Help us to praise!

Father all glorious, O'er all victorious
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days

Come Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword
Our prayer attend!
Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success
Spirit of holiness, On us descend

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour.

Thou who almighty art, now rule in ev'ry heart
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r

To Thee great One in Three, eternal praises be
Hence evermore.

Thy sov'reign majesty may we in glory see
And to eternity love and adore

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;*

The third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you

are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

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
have trespassed 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.

SONG OF REFLECTION

“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee” #430

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret;
Help me bear the strain of toil
The fret of care

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broad'ning way,
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

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PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINISTRY MOMENT – “Wrapped in Love”

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and TITHES

(Thank you for your generosity! To contribute electronically, please see the QR code.)

SHARING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” ⁷ They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” ¹³ But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage. ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

SERMON

“Keeping Christ” Rev. Richard Luna

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

SONG OF INVITATION

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

#396

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear,
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen ,
Thou guardian of my soul

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

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SENDING FORTH

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Are Ye Able

Lord, we are able. Our spirits are Thine.
Remold them, make us, like Thee divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
A beacon to God, to love and loyalty.

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GOING FORTH

Blessed by God's love and strengthened by God's
Grace, let us be the church to the people we are with.
Amen.

*The altar flowers are given by Deidre & Kasey Doggett
in gratitude for our St. John's Church Family and the
love and support they have given to our family over
the years.*

*QR Code provided for your tithes and offerings.
Thank you.*

