

***Benediction** "A Breath Prayer" Responsive,
led by Rev. Marchbanks

We breathe.
Curl yourself around this small part of creation and those present in it, that all might feel the calming heartbeat of your love. Still our hearts, God, that they might find communion with yours and each other.

God, we pray for peace to abide here and in the lives of all those around us. Help us to create opportunities for justice out of the conflicts in our lives. Stir in us all a desire for reconciliation when we are alienated or wounded.

Abide here, God. Breathe your hope into the cracks and crevasses of this world, and bring us along in the work. **Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ** Rev. Marchbanks

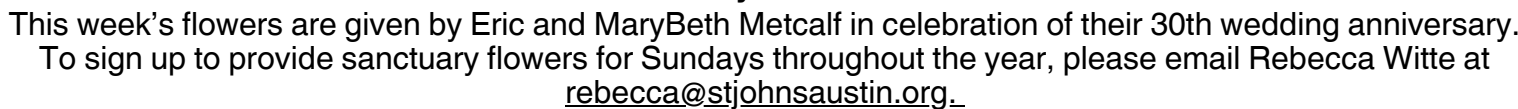
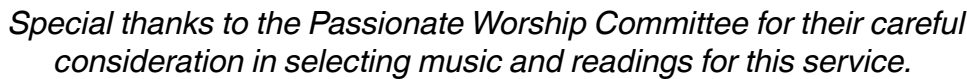
***Postlude** “Draw the Circle Wide” Cina Crisara, piano

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Liturgy Notes

Today's readings are from original poetry by Angela Wallace and *Peace Prayers: Meditations, Affirmations, Invocations, Poems, and Prayers for Peace*. The Offertory Prayer was adapted from United Methodists of New Jersey Advent materials.

Ways to Give at Saint John's

1. Text "SJUMC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.
2. Visit stjohnsaustin.org/giving to make an online donation using a credit/debit card, or bank draft.
3. Church members may log on to their mySaintJohn's account via the web or by the Realm Connect app.
4. Leave a donation in the offering plates as they are passed or in the offering box located in the Gallery, or mail a check.

We are creating a community where God's love changes people, and God's people change the world.

Saint John's
United Methodist Church

*At Saint John's United Methodist Church we affirm
that all persons are of sacred worth,
and we welcome everyone, without exception, to
participate fully in the church's life and ministry.*

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International Day of Peace - September 21, 2025

Difficulty hearing in the Sanctuary? Please ask an usher for a listening device or see the pew card for information about using the ListenWiFi phone app.

Gathering Music	“Make Me an Answer to Prayer”	Cina Crisara, piano
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Welcome Rev. Randy Knight

Introit “Breath of God, Breath of Peace” Chancel Choir

Breath of God, Breath of peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,
Breath of justice, Breath of passion, Breath creating, Breath of healing,
Breath of singing, Breath of praying,
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Breath of God.

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Greeting	"Gaelic Blessing"	Responsive
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If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.

May peace prevail on earth.

If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.

May peace prevail on earth.

If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors.

May peace prevail on earth.

If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace at home.

May peace prevail on earth.

***Opening Hymn** “This Is My Song” *A*

(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)

UMH #437 (vv 1, 2)
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Morning Prayer	"A Prayer for Peace"	A
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Eternal wellspring of peace —

**May we be drenched with the longing for peace
that we may give ourselves over to peace
until the earth overflows with peace
as living waters overflow the seas. Amen.**

Children's Time Izzy Lopez

Prayers of the People Rev. Knight

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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.

Song for Illumination

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”
(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)

All

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Reading

“A Poem for International Day of Peace”

Rebecca Witte

by Angela Wallace

Some people speak of Peace as the calming of wind or quiet moments in the morning.
I speak today of peace for leaders to take a deep breath and nations to see peace a Holy place.
Where we come together to stop the hate and the strive for power.
A communion that goes beyond an individual.
A communion that is universal.
An inclusive peace that was set in motion a long time ago.
It was the breath of life.
A wholly magnificent spirit that loves peace.
A peace that makes us whole.
Let us take a deep breath and inhale the Holy Spirit of Peace.
Amen.

Response

“O Lord, Hear Our Prayer

Chancel Choir

O Lord, hear our prayer,
incline thine ear, incline thine ear,
incline thine ear, incline thine ear to us.

O Lord, hear our prayer,
and grant us peace, and grant us peace,
and grant us peace.

O Lord, hear our prayer.
O Lord, hear our prayer.

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Reading

Responsive,
led by Chet Henry

by Michael Leunig, from *Peace Prayers*

Dear God, we give thanks for places of simplicity and peace. Let us find such a place within ourselves.
We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty.
Let us find such a place within ourselves.
We give thanks for places of nature's truth and freedom, of joy, inspiration and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging.
Let us search for these places in the world, in ourselves, and in others. Let us restore them. Let us strengthen and protect them, and let us create them.
May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life and may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature's eternal wisdom. Amen.

Response

“Amazing Abundance”
(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)

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Reading

Don Anderson

by Deng Ming Dao, from *Peace Prayers*

The peace of one individual is small. The peace of many people together is big. When we see ourselves as separate from our community and from nature, then violence and strife arise. It is only when we understand our part in an overall unity that there is the possibility of peace on a large scale.

Response

“Make Me an Answer to Prayer”

Chancel Choir

Make me an answer to prayer, O Lord, for someone who’s calling to you.
For someone who’s needing what I have received, make me an answer from you.
Make me an answer to prayer, O Lord, for someone who’s praying tonight
For someone who’s lost in the darkness today, make me a vessel of light.

REFRAIN:
We are ambassadors, we are your messengers, though we are vessels of clay.
And as we’ve received from you so should we give unto all that you send our way.

Baptize me with your fire, O Lord, and burn away self-centered ways.
Give the joy of selfless love. Make me an answer I pray.
Fill me with power like Peter and Paul, to be a clean vessel for you;
to let go of things that you don’t love, and love all the things that you do!

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Words of Life

John 20:21-22

Sarah Henderson

Message for Today

“Every Body, Breath, and Soul”

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks

Response

“Spirit of Gentleness”
(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnai.)

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Offertory Prayer

All,
led by Sarah Henderson

As we present our tithes and offerings on this International Day of Peace, we give thanks for the gifts you bestow upon us, especially the gift of Jesus. May you bless these offerings and multiply them as we strive to do the work of your kingdom here on earth. May our work bring about peace and love to all. This we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Offertory

“Holy Is the Refugee”

Chancel Choir

Holy is the refugee, holy is the guest, holy, those who wander far from home.
Holy are the bodies seeking safety, warmth and rest; beloved, find a welcome as you roam.

REFRAIN
Holy, holy, holy, God who made us in their likeness;
holy ev’rybody, breath, and soul.

Holy is the enemy, holy is the friend, holy ev’ry spirit as it flames;
Holy is each body, held by love until the end, beloved, may we know what God proclaims.

REFRAIN
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*We Continue Our Worshipful Work

Rev. Marchbanks

*Sending Hymn

“Draw the Circle Wide”
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