

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 22, 2023

Welcome to St. John

Welcome Thank you for joining us for in-person worship today!

Livestreaming All of St. John's worship services are now livestreamed. You can watch the service live or at another time by going to our website, www.stjah.org or our Vimeo page, www.vimeo.com/stjah.

Holy Communion All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion at St. John. We believe that Jesus welcomed all to his mission of love and all are welcome to the table. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first & third Sundays of the month. All are invited to come forward, row by row. If you cannot come forward, a server will bring communion to you. **A gluten-free option is available upon request.**

Giving Offering plates are passed during worship. You can also give by going to www.stjah.org and clicking the "GIVE" tab at the top of the page, or by mail. Thank you for your generosity!

Children in Worship Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Packets for children are available for children.

Interested in Membership? Contact the office at office@stjah.org or 847-255-6687.

Open and Affirming We are an ONA church. Please visit our website and see our ONA Statement on the back page of this bulletin for more information.

Wifi Network & Password Guest & StJohnGuest

CONTACT US –

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www.stjah.org | office@stjah.org

facebook.com/stjohnuccah | twitter.com/stjohnuccah | instagram.com/stjohnuccah

Office: 847.255.6687

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

STAFF –

Rev. Paris Donehoo, Pastor

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – office@stjah.org

Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist & Orchestra Director

Linda Styzek, Pianist & Worship Band Coordinator

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director & Livestream Coordinator

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We wake up in the morning and see the sunrise:

How majestic is your name in all the earth!

We are warmed by the sun; the rain cleanses all creation:

How majestic is your name in all the earth!

We watch the moon light up the night, we fall asleep to the lullabies of the stars:

How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

*OPENING HYMN #55

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we admit that we always find the time to fill our stomachs,

But not our souls.

We spend hours watching television,

But not the wonders of your creation.

We arrange outings with our friends,

Yet ignore your invitation to sit and talk.

We vow to change every aspect of our lives,

Except for that which pertains to you.

Forgive us, God of glory, and make us new. Remind us that we have moments for grace, for hope, for joy, for a relationship with you.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*THE PEACE [*Please simply say "Peace be with you" with a nod or wave.*]

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*RESPONSE #759

GLORIA

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

WELCOME & COMMUNITY LIFE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 7:1-8 [NRSV]

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD." For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever. Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail.

SONG

One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

**Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains. One thing remains.**

**On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains. One thing remains.**

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love.**

**In death, in life I'm confident and
Cover'd by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid; there's nothing that
Can separate my heart from Your great love.**

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NEW TESTAMENT

Revelation 21:1-5a [NRSV]

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

[Children may help collect and bring forward food pantry donations and will be dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Prayer of Dedication.]

CHILDREN'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION [All are welcome to join in this prayer with the children.]

Pastor

Bless this food, /
and all who eat it. /
Thank you, God, /
for inviting us /
to help feed the hungry. /
Amen. /

Children & Congregation:

**Bless this food,
and all who eat it.
Thank you, God,
for inviting us
to help feed the hungry.
Amen.**

CHANCEL CHOIR

Sing A Song About Life – Eugene Butler

SERMON

A BIBLE AND BEING BRAVE

HYMN #495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

COMMUNITY PRAYER & THE 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 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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY *Have No Fear, Little Flock* – David Cherwien

*DOXOLOGY #780

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #607

We Would Be Building

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F Major – J.S. Bach

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

Bolded text is intended to be read in unison by the whole congregation.

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Thank you to Rev. Paris Donehoo for preaching and leading worship at St. John January 22 through February 12! Paris is a retired, ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Paris and his wife, Penny, are active members here at St. John. You may have seen him playing in the worship band, singing in the choir, and preaching. Paris has served UCC churches in the Chicago area and is originally from Georgia. We appreciate Paris' willingness to fill in until the new interim pastor arrives.

This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Dennis Roesslein & Dave Landeweer. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. COFFEE: Cooper Family for Hanna's 10th Birthday! SCRIPTURE READER: Barbara Crum. CALLED TO CARE: SEXTON: Steve Blye. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson & Georgia Runge.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Judy Grimes & Holly Petersen. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judy Grimes. COFFEE: Grace Breisch & Sue Kaiser. SCRIPTURE: Barbara Blye. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Frank Styzek. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson & Georgia Runge.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Third Sunday after Epiphany** – Sunday, January 22 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, January 22 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, January 24 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, January 24 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, January 25 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Girl Scouts Troop Meeting** – Thursday, January 26 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Friday, January 27 at 7:00 P.M.
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Little Free Pantry Announcement: The Little Free Pantry continues to be well utilized. Gloves, hats, hand warmers, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and laundry detergent are needed items. With St. John serving as a PADS site, the Little Free Pantry will reach even more people in need. Thank you for your continued support. Sign up to help for a 2-week commitment at <https://tinyurl.com/2uzc4tdf>.

Food Pantry Focus: The Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry is thankful for our weekly donations. The following items are most needed: 1/22 - Any of the choices that follow; 1/29 – All types of canned soups; 2/5 – Canned fruit; 2/12 - White rice, 1-2 lb. bags/boxes (or Rice-a-Roni, if plain white is not available); 2/19 - All types of canned soups; 2/26 – Canned meats and fish. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

Conversations on Race: The St. John & Temple Beth Am discussion group will be starting a new book on Tuesday January 24, 7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom. The Sum of Us, What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee will be our focus. We'll start with the Introduction and chapter 1: An Old Story: The Zero-Sum Hierarchy, 26 pages.

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom. Tom and Martha Mockaitis lead the discussions. All are welcome! Please let Martha or Tom know if you would like to join in and the Zoom link will be provided.

St. John Pastoral Transition: St. John's Council is happy to announce that a call was extended to an interim pastor and they have accepted! Please see the pastoral transition timeline below:

January 22, 29, February 5, 12: Rev. Paris Donehoo will be preaching and leading worship at St. John. Many of you know Paris as an active St. John member who plays in the worship band and sings in the choir. Paris will be leading worship and on call for emergencies. Thank you, Paris, for your willingness to step in during this time of transition!

February 13: Rev. Judy Wang, the new interim pastor starts at St. John and her first Sunday leading worship will be **February 19**. We look forward to welcoming her.

January 22, 2023 / **Third Sunday after Epiphany** / Matthew 4:12-23 / Called Together

Wonderful Creator, In the beginning you made the world – rocks and trees, water and animals. You created, and you looked on your creation and called it good. Good, you decided, but not complete. And so you created us. You made people. You created us to be beautifully diverse – with many colors of skin, many levels of ability, many shapes and sizes. In our diversity, you also created us with a common longing – to love and be loved, to grow and thrive, to live lives of meaning and purpose.

Brother Christ, You came to earth to show us how to be both fully human and completely divine. You loved and cried, taught and touched, died and rose again. By your healing touch, you brought others close to you and to your heavenly Parent. You modeled for us how to live lives of sacrifice and service, how to be healers of the ills of body and mind. You encouraged us to be bringers of hope to all we encounter.

Holy Spirit, You are the Advocate. You accompany us day by day, hour by hour, breath by breath. You are the challenger, the encourager and the sustainer. You impel us toward places of need and longing in your world and infuse us with the desire to be your people. You lift us, giving us energy when our own spirits flag. And you promise to remain with us, no matter what.

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; you are both one and three. You are both distinct and in relationship. As neither one part of your divine being is complete without the others, so we are called to lives of radical interconnectivity. Create in us a desire to bring hope and healing to all we encounter. In your many powerful names we pray, Amen.

Announcing St. John's New Interim Pastor: Rev. Judy Wang

Rev. Judy Wang is a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ. Baptized at the Congregational UCC in Elmhurst, IL, she was raised and confirmed at First Church Lombard. After graduating from Elmhurst College, she went to work for the Lyric Opera of Chicago for two years. Feeling the call to ministry, she enrolled at Chicago Theological Seminary, where she met her husband of 34 years, Rev. Bob Wang. She was ordained in 1989.

Judy has served churches in Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin. She completed the Intentional Interim Ministry training in 2000. Judy and Bob have lived in Bristol, WI for the last 22 years. They have two adult children - a son who lives in St. Paul, MN and a daughter in Portland, OR. The nest is empty, except for the cat, Sebastian, and the newly adopted Boston Terrier, Karl!

Rev. Judy will start at St. John on February 13 and her first Sunday leading worship will be February 19. We look forward to welcoming her!



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST www.stjah.org

ST. JOHN UCC OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT



The congregation of St. John United Church of Christ rejoices that our community of faith is strengthened by diversity. We declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, extending God's extravagant welcome to all people regardless of culture, economic status, age, sex, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, marital status, or physical/mental condition. We invite everyone to join our journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our congregation.