

**St. John United Church of Christ**  
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Behold!

*"God saw everything God made  
and behold, it was very good."*

*Genesis 1:31*

Artist: Alexis

Age: 15

Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
October 1, 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](http://www.stjah.org) or our Vimeo page, [www.vimeo.com/stjah](http://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 Sunday 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.** White Grape Juice or Red Wine are available in the trays.

**Giving** Offering plates are passed during worship. You can also give by going to [www.stjah.org](http://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 are available for children.

**Interested in Membership?** Contact the office at [office@stjah.org](mailto: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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Office: 847.255.6687

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

## STAFF –

Rev. Judith Wang, Interim Pastor – [pastor@stjah.org](mailto:pastor@stjah.org)

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – [office@stjah.org](mailto: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

*October 1, 2023*

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sometimes we feel like asking God: are you paying attention?

**All: And God asks us too: are we paying attention?**

**Men:** To the people right in front of us,

**Women:** to the people who live with the consequences of our actions,

**Men:** to the realities with which our neighbors live,

**Women:** to the opportunities presented to us.

Leader: Are we paying attention?

**All: God sees, God knows, and God comes through us to respond.**

**We will listen, and look, and go.**

\*OPENING HYMN #349

"I Come with Joy"

\*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**You Are, You Will Be, You...**

**Are Being itself, a verb, always on the move,  
not a name we can pin down and use and control,  
a breath that slips into even the smallest cracks  
and sculpts the biggest landscapes and just...IS.**

**We cannot understand you with our minds, but we know your presence,  
Your Being, we know your story with us and with our ancestors.**

**We have seen you at work throughout history, and your action anchors  
us in your goodness.**

**This is your name for all generations: The God who IS, in relationship.  
Thank you...**

\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**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.**

\*PRAYER RESPONSE #769

**Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God.**

**Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

**\*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!**

MUSICAL OFFERING – Choir

Lord, Hosanna in the Highest – Glarum

## HISTORICAL WITNESS

Exodus 3.1-15

<sup>3</sup>Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.'

<sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' <sup>5</sup>Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' <sup>6</sup>He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' <sup>12</sup>He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

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<sup>3</sup> But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you." ' <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

MUSICAL OFFERING – Worship Band

Come As You Are

CCLI Song # 7017790 Ben Glover | David Crowder | Matt Maher © 2014 Ariose Music; sixsteps Music; Thankyou Music; Valley Of Songs Music; [worshiptogether.com](http://worshiptogether.com) songs For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 3266027

## CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

"May I Have Your Attention Please!"

HYMN OF RESPONSE #572

“When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Let Us Break Bread Together – arr. Lloyd Larson

\*DOXOLOGY

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (#17)

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Praise God the source of all our gifts  
Praise Jesus Christ Whose power uplifts  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia**

CCLI Song # 5100718 Gilbert H. Vieira | Jeff Lowery | Thomas Ken © Words: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Music: 2007 Lowery, Jeff CCLI License # 326602

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

See Insert

\*CLOSING HYMN #531

“God Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise To the Lord, the Almighty – arr. Vicki Courtney

\*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer written by Rev. Teri Peterson for Bible Worm.

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This Sunday’s Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Holly Petersen, Dennis Roesslein & Barbara Blye.  
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. FLOWERS: COFFEE: SCRIPTURE READER: Barbara Blye.  
CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

Next Sunday’s Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Cindy Giambarberee & Holly Petersen.  
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Cindy Giambarberee. FLOWERS: COFFEE: Sue Kaiser & Jane Olszowka.  
SCRIPTURE READER: Roland Cooper. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Paul  
Giambarberee. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday**  
- Sunday, October 1 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Coffee Hour** - Sunday, October 1 at 11:00 A.M.
  - **Pet Blessing** - Sunday, October 1 at 2:00 P.M.
  - **Bible Study** - Tuesday, October 3 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Bell Rehearsal** - Tuesday, October 3 at 6:00 P.M.
  - **Worship Band Rehearsal** - Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 P.M.
  - **Spiritual Life Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 P.M.
  - **Choir Rehearsal** - Wednesday, October 4 at 6:45 P.M.
  - **PADS** - Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 P.M.
  - **Cards** - Thursday, October 5 at 1:00 P.M.
  - **PADS** - Friday, October 6 at 7:00 P.M.
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This afternoon at 2pm, we will be hosting a **PET BLESSING SERVICE** in our south parking lot. Bring your pet for a special blessing and invite your friends and their pets. Don't have a pet, but want to help out? Talk to Holly Peterson.

**Women's Spirituality Group at St. John:** Thank you to those who attended our first Women's Spirituality gathering. We were led in an amazing and thought-provoking discussion by Martha Ross-Mockaitis and enjoyed each other's company. The book, *Dance of the Spirit: Seven Steps to Women's Spirituality* by Martha Harris has seven chapters. The group has decided to meet every other week, discussing one chapter a week. Here is the meeting schedule: October 12, Chapter 3; October 26, Chapter 4; November 9, Chapter 5; November 30, Chapter 6; December 14, Chapter 7. We will meet in Fellowship Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please feel free to bring your dinner with you. Questions, contact Holly Petersen, Martha Ross-Mockaitis or Barbara Blye. We look forward to seeing you.

**Race Discussion Group:** The Race Discussion Group will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month beginning October 2nd. We meet via Zoom from 7-8pm. Our book for the fall and winter is *Mindful of Race, Transforming Racism from the Inside Out* by Ruth King. We will read the Introduction and Chapter 1 for the October 2nd meeting. If you are interested in joining this conversation, please let either Martha or Tom Mockaitis know, and you'll be added to the Zoom Link. This group is a gathering of people from St. John's and Temple Beth Am. We are happy to have new folks join us as we learn and discuss topics and issues on racism today.

**PADS Update:** We had our last Summer Supper on Sunday, September 24th. Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered to serve! The guests were all so appreciative!

Amazon Wish List: We also list our PADS needs on our Amazon Wish list.  
PADS AMAZON WISH LIST

We are preparing for our PADS season at St. John. We will again be open on Wednesday & Friday evenings to serve the PADS guests. Our first nights will be Wednesday, October 4 and Friday, October 6. We are looking for volunteers for all shifts on Wednesday/Thursday and Friday/Saturday. We particularly need volunteers for second & third shifts both nights! We will provide training for all shifts! We also need food donations to provide dinner, breakfast & lunch for our guests! Please see the Sign-ups below! Mark what you are interested in and then hit submit! You can mark multiple items at once. If you would like assistance with Sign-up genius we are glad to help!

New volunteers and returning volunteers who have not already completed it are required to complete a brief on-line training provided by Journeys The Road Home. At the end of the training, volunteers

will complete the form for a background check and a volunteer information sheet. All 3 steps must be completed.

<https://www.journeystheroadhome.org/VolunteerOrientation.html>

**Wednesday Shifts Sign-up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-pads1#/>

**Wednesday Food/M meal Servers Sign-up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-202320241#/>

**Friday Shifts Sign-up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-pads2#/>

**Friday Food/meal Servers Sign-up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-202320242#/>

Please let us know if you have any questions! Thank you for your continued support!  
Your St. John PADS Team

**St. John Social:** Members and guests of our St. John community meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6:00 pm for a potluck dinner and social gathering.

- October 14th join us for **German Fest.**
- November 11th join us for a **Hawaiian Thanksgiving.**
- December 9th join us for the **12 “Dishes” of Christmas.**

Be as creative or traditional as you like. It is always fun to see what people bring to share. Hope to see you and remember all are welcome!

**St. John Book Club:** We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm at St. John. On October 9th, we will discuss the One Book One Village selection: The Two Lives of Sara by Catherine Adel West. On November 13th, we will discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Pelt. On December 11th, we will share a recent or old favorite holiday theme book/tradition of our choice.

**Little Free Pantry:** With cooler weather on its way, we need socks, gloves and hats for the little free pantry. Sign up to help for a 2-week commitment at <https://tinyurl.com/2uzc4tdf>. Contact Jay Virchow or Jenn Borrell with questions.

**Food Pantry Focus:** The Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry is thankful for our weekly donations. The following items are needed: 10/1 – Canned soup; 10/8 – Canned chicken and tuna; 10/15 – Canned fruit; 10/22 – Canned SpaghettiO's and ravioli, etc.; 10/29 – Peanut butter, 16-28 oz. max. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

**Giving Hope:** Registration is now open for FamilyForward's annual fundraiser, **Giving Hope**, this year with an Oktoberfest theme. Please plan to attend as FamilyForward celebrates its 20th anniversary in support of low-income, working families across the northwest suburbs as they move toward financial stability and independence. The event will be held on Sunday, October 15th, from noon-2:30pm at Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling.

Event highlights include: Gourmet lunch buffet with vegetarian options; Cash bar including German beer selections; Silent auctions and raffles; Entertainment by Die Musikmeisters Band (Oompah!); Family story and live appeal; Special Giving Hope: Oktoberfest gift & more!

Visit [family-forward.org/giving-hope](http://family-forward.org/giving-hope) to register for this major event in support of hard-working families that need our help to overcome financial challenges. Questions? Contact FamilyForward board members Paul Cochran or Tim Wayman. Hope to see you there!

October 1, 2023 / **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost** / Exodus 17:1-7 / God's Sustaining Presence  
*Neighbors in Need Offering / World Communion Sunday*

*...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer. Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet".*

Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?"

Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, "What shall I do with the people?"

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to "live the questions." Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?



[www.stjah.org](http://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.