

St. John United Church of Christ

Arlington Heights, Illinois

*Hear, O Israel:
The LORD our GOD , the LORD
is one. Love the LORD your
GOD with all your heart and
with all your soul and with
all your strength.*



DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 8, 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 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 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 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 –

308 N. Evergreen Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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. Judith Wang, Interim Pastor – pastor@stjah.org

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

October 8, 2023

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From generation to generation,
our God is the Lord.

For our ancestors, yes, and also for us, here, today,
our God is the Lord.

In the stories of old, and the story we are still living,
our God is the Lord.

Listen — not just with your ears but with your whole self:
our God is the Lord, and we will love God with all our being.

*OPENING HYMN #4

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**You have offered us a story with thousands of generations of blessing,
O God, and we come today to hear and to join in.**

**You set us free from the empires of destruction, scarcity, and supremacy
so that we can worship you together in spirit and truth.**

**In the midst of the ways of this world which teaches us
to get as much as we can, think of ourselves first,**

and do whatever it takes no matter who gets hurt,

You call us to another way:

the way of life, lived to the full, sharing in your goodness and grace.

Help us today to hear you, and to obey, that we may live.

*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!

5 Moses convened all Israel, and said to them:

Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today; you shall learn them and observe them diligently. ²The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. ³Not with our ancestors did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the fire. ⁵(At that time I was standing between the LORD and you to declare to you the words of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said:

6 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ⁷you shall have no other gods before me.

8 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁹You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me, ¹⁰but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

11 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

12 Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

16 Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

17 You shall not murder. 18 Neither shall you commit adultery. 19 Neither shall you steal.

20 Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbour.

21 Neither shall you covet your neighbor's wife.

Neither shall you desire your neighbor's house, or field, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“Give it All You’ve Got”

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Love the Lord Your God”

Verse 1

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

(REPEAT)

With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Verse 2

I will serve the Lord with all my heart with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength

(REPEAT)

Chorus 2

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, with all my strength.

I will serve the Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

Verse 3

I will love you Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

(REPEAT)

Chorus 3

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, with all my strength.

I will love you Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, And with all my strength.

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TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*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

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #537

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*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: Cindy Giambarberee & Holly Petersen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Cindy Giambarberee. FLOWERS: Sue Kaiser & Jane Olszowka.

SCRIPTURE READER: Roland Cooper. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Paul

Giambarberee. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: ANNOUNCEMENTS: FLOWERS: Blye's for their 18th Wedding Anniversary. COFFEE: Blye's for their 18th Wedding Anniversary. SCRIPTURE READER: CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

The Week Ahead at St. John:

- **PADS** - Friday, October 6 at 7:00 P.M.
- **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost** - Sunday, October 8 at 10:00 A.M.
- **Coffee Hour** - Sunday, October 8 at 11:00 A.M.
- **Book Club** – Monday, October 9 at 2:00 P.M.
- **Bible Study** - Tuesday, October 10 at 10:00 A.M.
- **Bell Rehearsal** - Tuesday, October 10 at 6:00 P.M.
- **Worship Band Rehearsal** - Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 P.M.
- **Council Meeting** - Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 P.M.
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Wednesday, October 11 at 6:45 P.M.
- **PADS** - Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00 P.M.
- **Women's Spirituality Group** - Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30 P.M.
- **PADS** - Friday, October 6 at 7:00 P.M.
- **St. John Social** – Saturday, October 14 at 6:00 P.M.

Women's Spirituality Group at St. John: Thank you to those who attended our first Women's Spirituality gathering. The book, *Dance of the Spirit: Seven Steps to Women's Spirituality* by Martha Harris has seven chapters. The group meets every other week, discussing one chapter a week, as follows: October 12-Chapter 3; October 26-Chapter 4; November 9-Chapter 5; November 30-Chapter

6; December 14-Chapter 7. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please feel free to bring your dinner. Questions, contact Holly Petersen, Martha Ross-Mockaitis or Barbara Blye.

Race Discussion Group: The Race Discussion Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month via Zoom from 7-8pm. Our book is Mindful of Race, Transforming Racism from the Inside Out by Ruth King. If you are interested in joining, please let Martha or Tom Mockaitis know, and you'll be added to the Zoom Link. The group is a gathering of people from St. John's & Temple Beth Am. We are happy to have new folks join as we learn and discuss topics and issues on racism today.

PADS Update: We will again be open on Wednesday & Friday evenings to serve PADS guests. Our first nights will be October 4 and 6. We are looking for volunteers for all shifts on Wednesday / Thursday and Friday / Saturday and particularly need volunteers for 2nd & 3rd shifts both nights! We 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 hit submit! You can mark multiple items at once. If you need assistance with Sign-up genius we are glad to help! New 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 a 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 & guests of our St. John community meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6pm for a potluck dinner and social gathering: October 14 join us for **German Fest**. November 11 join us for a **Hawaiian Thanksgiving**. December 9 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 9, we will discuss the One Book One Village selection: The Two Lives of Sara by Catherine Adel West. On November 13, we will discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Pelt. On December 11, 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: 10/8 – 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

October 8, 2023 / **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost** / Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Wisdom for the Way / *Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week*

On this Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week, we pause for a moment to give thanks for the work of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (UCCDM). According to their website, “The UCCDM envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. The mission of UCCDM is to support all settings of the United Church of Christ (UCC) including but not limited to Local Congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs), and national settings, as they seek to recognize and provide access to people with disabilities in all aspects of the church’s life and ministry.

This includes, but is not limited to, affirming and claiming as its own the commitments of the UCC to be a multiracial, multicultural, Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Accessible to All ministry, recognizing that people with disabilities have a multitude of other identities, and that all justice movements are interconnected; encouraging all settings of the wider church to be physically, socially, and virtually accessible to and welcoming of people with disabilities; encouraging and providing guidance to UCC settings as they work to become Accessible to All (hereafter A2A), and supporting them as they sustain their commitment; participating in denominational and ecumenical conversations related to disabilities and working with the UCC national setting and community partners to promote disability justice through an intersectional framework”. For many churches, one of the greatest barriers to full participation is their buildings. Many church buildings, erected before a time of greater understanding, are not built to be fully inclusive. With generations of time, attention, and money given to maintain church buildings, it can be hard to think of changing them, even if it means being more inclusive. And yet, Exodus 20:4 says it clearly. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. That includes the buildings in which we work and worship. Look around you now. Has this building become an idol, and object to appease and be worshiped rather than a sanctuary of welcome? How can your community join the UCCDM movement of full inclusivity?



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.