

St. John United Church of Christ

Arlington Heights, Illinois

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season. Psalm 1: 3a*



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 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 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 22, 2023

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

To the One who breathes life into being, we return that breath in praise.

Praise God with the sounds of dancing and singing!

**To the One whose holy power breaks down our easy answers, we offer
body and breath in praise.**

Praise God in earth and heaven!

**To the One whose goodness reaches into every place, we bring our thanks
and praise.**

Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN #22

“Sing Praise to God...”

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**We are your people, O God — we belong to each other,
and you call us into community.**

**As we gather this day, may we lay aside our own dreams of power and might,
may we recognize the weightiness of your presence filling this place,
may we mirror your love instead of asking you to mirror our prejudice.**

Burst out of the boxes in which we keep you, and lead the way.

Hear our prayer....

*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!

HISTORICAL WITNESS Part 1

2 Samuel 5.1-5

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, 'Look, we are your bone and flesh. ²For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.' ³So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years. ⁵At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jubilate Deo – Mozart, arr. Spevacek

HISTORICAL WITNESS Part 2

2 Samuel 6.1-15

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

⁶ When they came to the threshing-floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen shook it. ⁷The anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God struck him there because he reached out his hand to the ark; and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸David was angry because the LORD had burst forth with an outburst upon Uzzah; so that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. ⁹David was afraid of the LORD that day; he said, 'How can the ark of the LORD come into my care?' ¹⁰So David was unwilling to take the ark of the LORD into his care in the city of David; instead David took it to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹¹The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months; and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

¹² It was told King David, 'The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.' So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³and when those who bore the ark of

the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

MUSICAL OFFERING

©2013 Hand and Soil Music | CCLI #7007689

Leaning In

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“Religion and Politics”

HYMN #21 Stanzas 1-2

“God Reigns o’er All the Earth”

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing – Albert Travis

*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

*CLOSING HYMN #436 Stanzas 1-3

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices – Paul Manz

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer were written by Rev. Teri Peterson.

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

Hymns reproduced with permission under Christian Copyright Licensing International, license #3266027.

This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Judy Grimes & Holly Petersen. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. FLOWERS: COFFEE: Giambarberes. SCRIPTURE READER: Lisa Zwilling. CALLED TO CARE: SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Cindy Giambarberes & Judy Grimes. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judy Grimes. FLOWERS: Cochran's for 56th Anniversary. COFFEE: Trick or Treat. SCRIPTURE READER: Linda Styzek. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

The Week Ahead at St. John:

- **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost** - Sunday, October 22 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** - Sunday, October 22 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Bible Study** - Tuesday, October 24 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Rehearsal** - Tuesday, October 24 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **PADS** - Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Women's Spiritual Group** - Thursday, October 26 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Choir Rehearsal** - Thursday, October 26 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **PADS** - Friday, October 27 at 7:00 P.M.
-

Student Care Packages: Do you have a student that is attending college or trade school? Would they like to receive a care package from St. John? If so, please send your student's address (home or school) to the church office. Care packages will be sent in late fall. Donations of food or money (for mailings) can be left in the large blue box in Fellowship Hall. Deadline Sunday, October 29. Questions? Contact Mary Santi at maryfs2154@sbcglobal.net or 847-907-1586 (call or text).

Holiday Greenery: St. John will again be selling holiday greenery. Wreaths and swags and more will be on sale from October 7th-28th each Sunday in fellowship hall after the church service, or see Julie Kurka for a brochure. Orders will be ready for pick up on Saturday November 18th after 10am.

Cookies for Sailors: As in years past, the American Legion Halls in Arlington Heights and Mt. Prospect will be hosting sailor recruits for Thanksgiving Dinner. I received calls asking if our church would donate cookies again this year. I said yes because our congregation has always been generous with their baking talents in the past. If you can, please bake a batch for the sailor recruits and drop them in Fellowship Hall prior to service on November 19. Thank You in advance. Any Questions, please call Dee Koontz at 847-870-7972.

Women's Spirituality Group at St. John: Thank you to those who attended our 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 26-Chapter 4; November 9-Chapter 5; November 30-Chapter 6; December 14-Chapter 7. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 6pm-8pm. 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: The first few weeks of the PADS season have gone well! We have welcomed 22-25 guests on Wednesday and Friday nights at St. John! We will be open with St. James on Wednesday

nights and we are the only site open on Friday nights. The guests so appreciate the wonderful meals and warm hospitality. We are looking for volunteers for all shifts on Wednesday/Thursday and Friday/Saturday. We particularly need volunteers for second and third shifts as well as members for the clean-up shifts! We will provide training for all shifts! We also need food donations to provide dinner, breakfast and lunch for our guests on Wednesday and Friday nights!

6:00 - 7:00 pm - Set-up Shift

6:30 - 11:00 pm - First Shift

6:30 - 9:00 pm - First Shift

6:30 - 9:00 pm - Meal Servers

10:45 pm - 3:00 am - Second Shift

2:45 - 7:00 am - Third Shift

7:00 - 8:30 am - Clean-up Shift

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!

Wednesday Shifts Sign-up

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

Wednesday Food/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 reach out to any team member with questions! Thanks so much for all of your support! The 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: November 11 join us for a **Hawaiian Thanksgiving**. December 9 join us for the **12 “Dishes” of Christmas**. Be creative or traditional. It's 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 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: 10/22 – Canned SpaghettiO's and ravioli, etc.; 10/29 – Peanut butter, 16-28 oz. max. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

Oct. 22, 2023 / **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost** / 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 / Living Messages

In the 1920's when minister's wife Lesbia Scott's three children were young, she enjoyed writing simple hymns for them about everyday things. "Make us a hymn about a picnic," they would ask. Or "write a hymn about a foggy day." She collected the songs she wrote for her children in a long-out-of-print collection.

The only one that remains in regular circulation was not a favorite of hers, or her children's, but it continues to capture the imagination of singers generations later. *I Sing A Song of the Saints of God* (*#295 in *The New Century Hymnal*) canonizes the gospel writer Luke, queen Margaret of Scotland, Joan of Arc, John Donne and Ignatius of Antioch - not by name but by characteristics. Today will you sing this song in your church? Which image makes you smile? Which image makes you wonder? Which image makes you understand something about God's people you didn't before?

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one too.

They loved their God and they lived that love,
It was loving that made them strong;
They did what was right for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's no earthly reason, none in the least,

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is filled with the living saints
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;
for the saints are folk like you and me,
and I mean to be one too.

*The New Century Hymnal. Cleveland, Ohio. The Pilgrim Press; United Church of Christ. © 1995 The Pilgrim Press.
Hymn #295 Words, Lesbia Scott. Music, John H. Hopkins.



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.