

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Christ with Thomas Rowan and Irene LeCompte, Washington Cathedral, DC

Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

Welcome to St. John



Welcome back! Thank you for joining us for in-person worship today. We're so glad that everyone can gather safely in the sanctuary. Here are some things to remember: 1. Masks are required. 2. Please practice social distancing. 3. There should be three chairs in between you and the next person in your row.

Safety & Cleaning We are taking the pandemic and virus spread seriously and want you to know that after every worship service we are using an electrostatic sprayer with safe and environmentally-friendly disinfectant to clean.

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. Individual Communion cups are available when you pick up a bulletin on Communion Sundays, which are the first and third Sundays of the month. There is a thin layer covering the wafer and the purple lid can then be opened for the grape juice. All of the Communion cups are grape juice.

Giving Offering plates will be located at the entrance to the sanctuary. We will not collect offering by passing the plates due to the COVID-19. You can also give by 1. going to www.stjah.org and click 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. St. John's leadership is in discussions about beginning Sunday School and other children's and youth ministries again in the future.

Interested in Membership? Contact Pastor Michael at mjones@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.

CONTACT US –

308 N. Evergreen Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

www.stjah.org | office@stjah.org

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

Office: 847.255.6687

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

STAFF –

Rev. Michael D. Jones, Pastor – mjones@stjah.org

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – office@stjah.org

Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist

Linda Styzek, Pianist

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

Second Sunday of Easter / April 11, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Darkness cannot claim us!

Fear cannot bind us!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Amen!

OPENING HYMN #240

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray. **Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation. We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We continue to cling to selfish ways and doubt your power to make all things new. Forgive us. Have mercy on our weakness. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!" We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation. You are forgiven; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. Walk forward in your spiritual journey in love. Amen.

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!

FIRST NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

SECOND NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Thine Is the Glory – Handel/Billingsley

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I

see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

RESPONSE #765

Alleluia

SERMON

We Are Witnesses

HYMN # 552

From the Crush of Wealth and Power

COMMUNITY PRAYER & 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

Be Thou My Vision — Arr. Brian Chung

DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING SONG

Christ Is Risen

Verse 1

Let no one caught in sin remain, Inside the lie of inward shame.
But fix our eyes upon the cross And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us. Freely You've bled for us.

Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake, Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead, We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake, Come and rise up from the grave.

Verse 2

Beneath the weight of all our sin You bowed to none but heaven's will.
No scheme of hell no scoffer's crown, No burden great can hold You down.
In strength You reign. Forever let Your church proclaim.

Bridge

○ death, where is your sting? ○ hell, where is your victory?
○ church, come stand in the light. The glory of God has defeated the night!
Singing ○ death, where is your sting? ○ hell, where is your victory?
○ church, come stand in the light. Our God is not dead. He's alive! He's alive!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today — Arr. Sharon E. Rogers

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St. John UCC

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GIVING to St. John

Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John. There are two ways to give to St. John during this time of not being in-person for worship:

1. Giving Online: Go to www.stjah.org and click the "GIVE" tab at the top of the page. Once on the Give page, click on "DONATE NOW." Consider signing up for recurring giving. It makes it easy and helps the church plan.
2. Give by mail: Mail your gift to St. John UCC, 308 N. Evergreen Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

The Week Ahead at St. John

If you would like to join any committee meetings, please contact the office. Zoom information for virtual meetings is sent in the This Week announcement email every week. If you'd like to receive that email please contact the church office.

Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 11, at 10:00 A.M.

St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!

St. John Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Sunday, April 11, at 11:15 A.M.

Bible Study with Pastor Michael (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 13, at 10:00 A.M.

Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 P.M.

Capital Campaign Steering Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 P.M.

Church Flowers

St. John will once again purchase flowers for Sunday worship. If you would like to be a flower sponsor, please call the office. The cost of the flowers is \$40 per week.

Food Pantry Donations

St. John will continue to support the Lutheran Church of the Cross food pantry. Beginning Easter Sunday, please bring your donations to church either on Sundays or at another time and they will be delivered. The collection baskets will be available in the narthex.

St. John UCC Reopening Guidelines

St. John is now open indoor, in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00 A.M.

Attendees must sign up by:

1. Clicking the sign-up link provided in the weekly email sent out in announcements.
 2. Emailing the church office (office@stjah.org).
 3. Calling the church office (847-255-6687).
- (Please try to sign up at your earliest convenience to help with planning).

We are following CDC and state guidelines regarding the number of people who can attend in-person in-door worship. *If more people sign up than what the CDC and state guidelines indicate, we will consider offering two worship services.*

Please do not arrive before 9:30 A.M.

Chairs will be provided.

Masks and social distancing are required.

Attendees may enter at either entrance.

If you have any symptoms, have been in close contact with someone with COVID within the last 14 days, or have been tested for COVID and are waiting for results, we ask that you watch worship from home.

After worship: We will not be holding Coffee Hour but as the weather warms, outdoor gathering will be an option.

Amazon Smile

Looking for a way to support St. John? When you shop at Amazon, please shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. John, at no cost to you. Simply create an account on the [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) site and select St. John United Church of Christ as the charitable organization.

SPRING TRIVIA EVENT

Virtual
T r i v i a
Night

SUNDAY, APRIL 18 4:00 - 5:30 PM	\$25 PER TICKET TICKET SALES END APRIL 15!
	PLEASE VISIT bit.ly/fchspringtrivia FOR ALL INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS

IF YOU CAN'T JOIN US ON APRIL 18... Please consider making a donation to help Faith Community Homes families! Thank you.
visit: bit.ly/fch_donate

It's time to assemble a team for the Spring Trivia Event and get ready to compete for trivia bragging rights!

Gather virtually with your family – or rope in your best buds remotely – for this fun evening of friendly competition. Individuals can participate, too! It's all for an awesome cause – helping local low-income families served by Faith Community Homes.

If you cannot join us on April 18, please consider making a donation to help Faith Community Homes' families!

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.



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.stjah.org