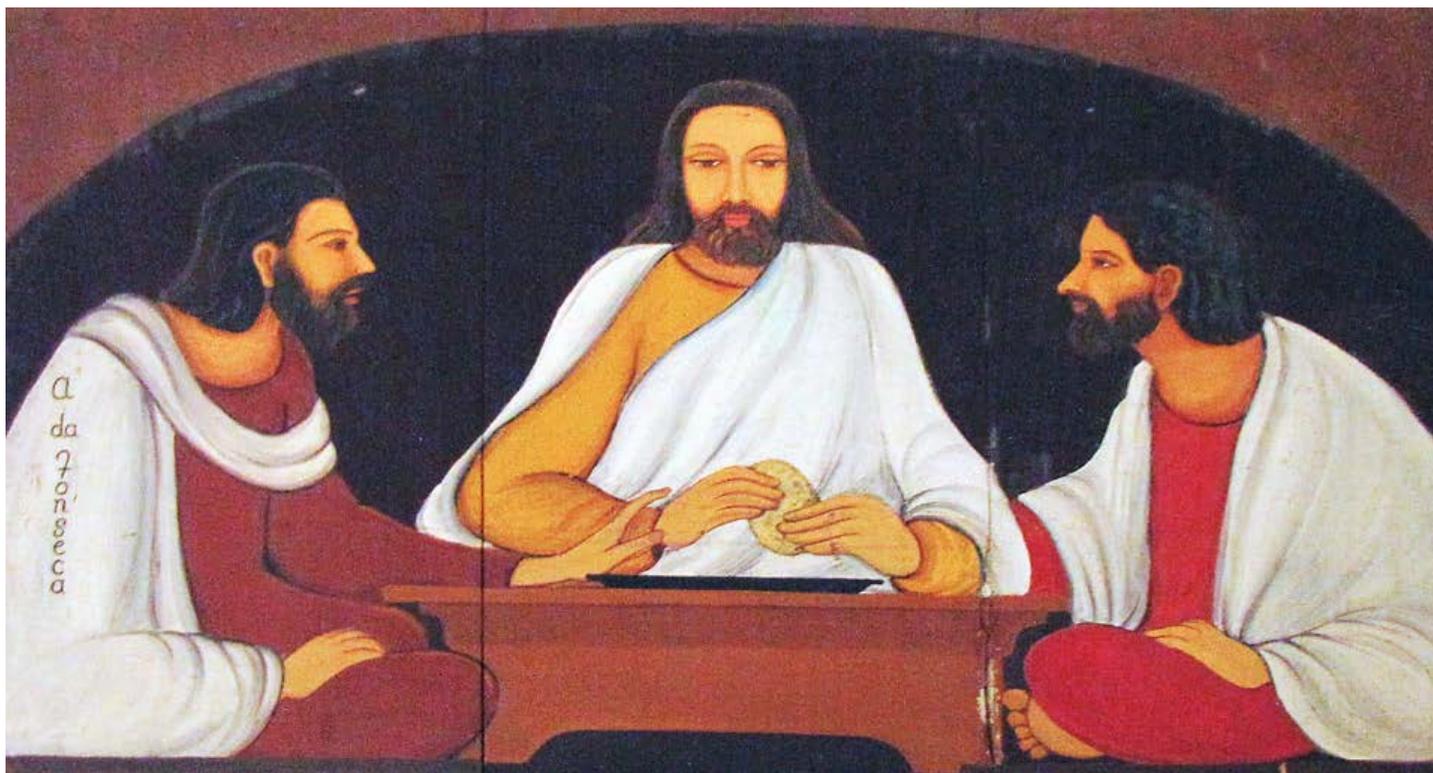


St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Christ Breaking Bread Angelo da Fonseca, Christa Prema Seva Ashram, Pune, India

Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 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

Third Sunday of Easter / April 18, 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

God of love and light, we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness, amazed to discover your transformative love. God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another, in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is Risen, and greets us with peace.

The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.

We are witnesses of God's glory and steadfast love.

The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!

Come, let us worship.

*OPENING HYMN #251

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, Forgive us when we stand in disbelief, and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace. Forgive us when we become too busy to share your love. Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need. Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed with bad news, and shut down completely.

In these times, remind us that we are called to be your humble servants.

Help us to wake up to the work of love, and to your renewing strength each day, we pray. Amen.

*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 #236

Halleluja

Halle, halle, halleluja.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Great Are You Lord*

CCLI Song # 6460220

David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan

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GOSPEL

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

RESPONSE #765

Alleluia

SERMON

Open Minds

HYMN #241

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

COMMUNITY PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Gift to Be Simple — Dale Wood

*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

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ is Risen! / **Christ is risen indeed!**
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit...
...As we proclaim the glory of your name, we sing.

Sanctus #793

**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.**

...Hear the prayer of our risen Christ:

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 OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING SONG

In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground: Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace? When fears are stilled when strivings cease?
My Comforter, my All in All. Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh: Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness. Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The love of God was magnified.
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay: Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory, hatred has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious love of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory – Michael Burkhardt

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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 18, at 10:00 A.M.

St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!

St. John Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Sunday, April 18, at 11:15 A.M.

Bible Study with Pastor Michael (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 20, at 10:00 A.M.

Confirmation Class (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 20, at 6:00 P.M.

Stewardship Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 P.M.

Conversations on Race (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 21, 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.

Buffalo Grove Pride Drive

St. John is sponsoring a home for this year's Buffalo Grove Pride Drive, taking place on June 6 from 12-3pm. If you're interested in helping create décor prior to the event, or setting up / tearing down on the day of, please reach out to Jenn Borrell at jborell@hotmail.com or 773-964-3455.

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.amazon.com/smile) 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.amazon.com/smile) site and select St. John United Church of Christ as the charitable organization.



**Let's make this Mother's Day special for moms in need.
We are collecting for Sue's Pantry.**

Sue's Pantry serves over 200 families a week, providing food and necessities.
Collecting Items until Thursday, May 6th

Full-size items needed:

Hand & Body Lotion
Body Wash & Spray
Hair Spray
Shampoo & Conditioner
Brushes & Combs
Ladies' Hygiene Products
Ladies' Deodorant
Nail Polish
Lipstick
Gift Certificates

Drop off your donations at church or call the office to have someone pick up your donations.

Below is a Target wish list link:

https://www.target.com/gift-registry/giftgiver?registryId=2638976198b54d5d900bb0828878a394&fbclid=IwAR39d53nYoxTL0ZBZYUAKzHHIZMLgXI6OhpVnGwy-W-KCWPU4yATvmhCOdE&lnk=registry_custom_url

No act of kindness is too small.

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