

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



*The Good Shepherd* – Julien Dupre, Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco, CA

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
April 25, 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](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. 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. **A gluten-free option is available upon request.**

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stjah.org) | [office@stjah.org](mailto:office@stjah.org)

[facebook.com/stjohnuccah](https://facebook.com/stjohnuccah) | [twitter.com/stjohnuccah](https://twitter.com/stjohnuccah) | [instagram.com/stjohnucc](https://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](mailto:mjones@stjah.org)

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

Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist

Linda Styzek, Pianist

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

# Fourth Sunday of Easter / April 25, 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

We gather together in the presence of our Shepherd God, who calls us each by name, who restores our souls, who leads us in the way of righteousness, and whose goodness and love never stops pursuing us.

**This is the God we have come to worship!**

Shout with joy to God! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before our God, singing with joy! Know that the Lord is God!

**God made us, and we are God's. We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #243

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we hear the comforting ancient poetry of the psalmist but wonder, is it true? Will you really provide for what we need? Will you bring us to a place of rest? Will you protect us from enemies, even when they share our dinner table? We confess that rather than being only filled with holy wonder, we are also filled with skepticism at the ancient words. We can quickly tally up the times we didn't feel provided for or protected from danger. We count the times we could not catch a break when we desperately needed it.

**So Holy One, shepherd our busy minds back to the here and now, help our spirits forgive the grudges we hold, and invite us to experience You as truly present. In these moments of quiet, offer us rest for a moment. 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!**

**Halle, halle, halleluja.**

PSALTER

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Sung response: **God restores my soul and leads me in right paths.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3:16-24

*We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?*

*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.*

*And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.*

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

*‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’*

RESPONSE #765

Alleluia

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*How Firm a Foundation* – Burroughs

SERMON

*The Good Shepherd*

HYMN #247

*My Shepherd Is the Living God*

## 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

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* – 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

### \*CLOSING HYMN #252

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Jesus Shall Reign* – David Cherwien

\*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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**This Sunday's Worship Leaders:** GREETERS: Barbara Blye, Dennis Roesslein & Kathie Schultz.  
BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: Roberta Morand. SCRIPTURE READER: Lisa Zwilling.  
CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Jo Scott. SEXTON: Bob Burdick. ALTAR GUILD: Roberta Morand & Georgia Runge.

**Next Sunday's Worship Leaders:** GREETERS: Lana Cochran, Judy Grimes & Holly Petersen.  
BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: None. SCRIPTURE READER: TBD. CALLED TO CARE:  
Barbara Blye. SEXTON: Frank Styzek. ALTAR GUILD: Molly Tashima & Janet Landeweer.

## **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](http://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.
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## ***The Week Ahead at St. John***

If you would like to join any committee meetings, please contact the office. Zoom info 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 25, at 10:00 A.M.  
St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!

### **St. John Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)**

Sunday, April 25, at 11:15 A.M.

### **Bible Study with Pastor Michael (Zoom)**

Tuesday, April 27, at 10:00 A.M.

### **Christian Education Committee Meeting (Zoom)**

Tuesday, April 27, at 7:00 P.M.

### **Conversations on Race (Zoom)**

Wednesday, April 28, at 7:00 P.M.

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## **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](mailto:office@stjah.org)).
  3. Calling the church office (847-255-6687).
- (Please try to sign up early to help with planning).

We follow CDC & state guidelines regarding the number of people who can attend in-person indoor worship. *If more people sign up than what the CDC & state guidelines indicate, we will consider offering 2 worship services.*

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

Chairs will be provided.

Masks & 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.

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**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](mailto:jborell@hotmail.com) or 773-964-3455.

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**Food Pantry Donations** – St. John continues to support the Lutheran Church of the Cross food pantry. Please bring your donations to church on Sundays or at another time and they will be delivered. Collection baskets will be available in the narthex.

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**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.

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**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.



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

*No act of kindness is too small.*

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## **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](http://www.stjah.org)