

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



The Rich Young Man Went Away Sorrowful -- James Tissot, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**  
October 10, 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.

**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. We celebrate Holy Communion on every first and third Sunday of the month. All are invited to come forward, row by row, to receive the bread and an individual cup with grape juice or wine. All Communion servers wear gloves. Individual cups with a wafer and grape juice are available. **A gluten-free option is available upon request.**

**Giving** Offering plates will be passed during worship. You can also give by going to [www.stjah.org](http://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 for children are available for children. The children are dismissed for Sunday school in the first half of worship.

**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/stjohnuccah](https://instagram.com/stjohnuccah)

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 & Orchestra Director

Linda Styzek, Pianist & Worship Band Coordinator

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director & Livestream Coordinator

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 10, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GREETING

The grace of 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

\*OPENING HYMN #22

*Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, Jesus taught that where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. In this hour, we come bringing our treasures—all that we have and all that we are.

**We come seeking your treasure—treasure that does not fade, decay, or disappoint. Share with us the treasure of heaven, that we may boldly share it with others. 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 #759

*Gloria*

**Glory to God the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit. Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Our God Saves*

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SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL (Age 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

HEBREW BIBLE / OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Amos 5:6-7, 10-15* [NRSV]

*Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!*

*They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.*

*Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.*

## GOSPEL READING

**Mark 10:17-31** [NRSV]

*As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.”’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.*

*Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’*

*Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’*

## GOSPEL RESPONSE #762

**Glory to you, O Christ. Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Question

HYMN #448

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A New Apostles' Creed* [Don Welch]

**We believe in God, the creative force that sustains  
and nurtures humanity in ways beyond our understanding.  
We believe that Jesus of Nazareth embodied the power of this force;  
extraordinarily able to grasp its meaning,  
he revealed this face of reality to us in his life and teaching.  
Because he was human, like us, through grace and mercy  
he offers us access to this incomprehensible power.  
There are forces in our lives that assault humanity,  
that bring suffering, degradation and death.  
Because of the strength of such forces, Jesus was rejected and killed.  
But death did not silence his voice.  
Evil will not eradicate the good that he showed us,  
a good that lives in us and through us.  
The power of this creative force is at work in our lives today.  
Our forefathers and mothers gave witness to this source of life  
and goodness in their words and deeds.  
We, as members of this community of faith, will likewise give witness  
in our words and deeds.  
Secure in our faith, we will fear no evil.  
When we falter, goodness and mercy will rescue us.  
Beyond our lives, grace will abound. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE 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

*For the Beauty of the Earth* — arr. Mark Hayes

\*DOXOLOGY #780

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #531

*God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*O Worship the King* — arr. Charity Putnam

\*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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St. John UCC

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**This Sunday's Worship Leaders:** GREETERS: Barbara Blye & Dennis Roesslein.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: Barbara & Steve Blye, in Honor of Our 16<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. SCRIPTURE READER: Frank Styzek. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

**Next Sunday's Worship Leaders:** GREETERS: Holly Petersen, Judy Grimes & Dennis

Roesslein. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: Lana & Paul Cochran, in Honor of Judy Kriston's Birthday. SCRIPTURE READER: Corrie Roesslein. CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

### **GIVING to St. John**

Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John. In addition to giving at Sunday worship, there are two other ways to give to St. John:

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 "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**

- **Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation Class** – Sunday, October 10, at 9:00 A.M.
  - **Sunday Worship & Sunday School** – Sunday, October 10, at 10:00 A.M. – St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!
  - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, October 10, at 11:00 A.M. – Outside on the west side of the building.
  - **Music Committee Meeting** – Sunday, October 10, at 11:30 A.M.
  - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, October 12, at 10:00 A.M. – via Zoom.
  - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, October 12, at 6:00 P.M.
  - **Council Meeting** – Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 P.M.
  - **Brownie Troop Meeting** – Wednesday, October 13, at 4:00 P.M.
  - **Conversations on Race** – Wednesday, October 13, at 7:00 P.M.
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## **October 31: All Saints' Sunday/Recognition**

On Sunday, October 31, St. John will celebrate All Saints' Sunday, a day when we remember our loved ones who have died both in the past year and beyond. If you have a family member or friend who has passed away in the past year, please submit their name to the office, which will be read aloud during the remembrance ceremony. There will also be the opportunity to light a candle during worship for loved ones who have died.

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### **Register for Faith Community Homes' Virtual Fundraiser, Giving Hope**

As COVID-19 uncertainties continue and to ensure everyone's safety, we are pivoting from a planned in-person event to a virtual Giving Hope once again this year. Please join us on Thursday, October 21, from 7:00 - 7:45pm online via Zoom for our annual premier fundraising event.

Just like every other year, Giving Hope will be a celebration of the important work we do together to empower families and change lives. Program highlights include an inspiring family story, the BIG REVEAL of our rebranding for our new name, FamilyForward, an online auction, a door prize drawing, and more.

To register, please visit [fchomes.org/stay-connected](https://fchomes.org/stay-connected) and click on the green "submit registration" button. As always, we are thankful to our many St. John UCC supporters and hope to see you there!

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### **St. John's Youth Greenery and Wreath Fundraiser is underway!**

Please see Julie Kurka after church or email [Schupple18@gmail.com](mailto:Schupple18@gmail.com) for an order form. The last day to order is November 7th and items will be delivered to church or your home on Saturday November 20th starting around 10am.

Please make checks out to "St. John UCC" and include "youth sale" in the memo.

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### **Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation Class**

Join Pastor Michael on Sundays from 9:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. on Sundays. The first topic will be "The Christian Story: From Jesus to Today." Each Sunday will be a discussion about Christian history and how the church developed over the centuries. All are welcome to join. Those who attend don't have to come every Sunday. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and wear masks.

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## **Pastor's Reading Group**

All are welcome to join the first Saturday of the month to explore topics related to spirituality, faith, religion, Christianity, the church, and more! Meetings are in person in Fellowship Hall, but masks will be required. Attendees don't have to commit to every book and meeting every month, and you can come whether you've read the whole book or not. We will read a new book for each meeting.

**The next Pastor's Reading Group will meet on Saturday, November 6 at 10:00 A.M. and the book is "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life." by Richard Rohr.**

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## **St. John's Continuing Discussion on Race**

The Discussion on Race group meets on Wednesdays, from 7-8pm, via Zoom, and will continue through November 17. The group is composed of St. John and Temple Beth Am members who will read and discuss the book Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents*. New members from both houses of faith are welcome to join the group. We will read one chapter a week and share thoughts and reflections based on discussion questions from Tom & Martha Mockaitis.

Questions, call Martha or Tom Mockaitis.

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## **St. John Worship Service Updates**

The CDC is now recommending that vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks at indoor gatherings. **We ask that you follow these guidelines.** We are no longer requiring sign-ups.

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.

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## **Sunday Morning Prayer Requests**

Prayer request forms are available in the lobby. If you would like your prayer request read during the Prayers of the People, please fill out the form and give it to one of the ushers or Pastor Michael before the start of the worship service.

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## **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 [office@stjah.org](mailto:office@stjah.org). Care packages will be sent in late fall.

Donations of food/small school items may be placed in the blue bin labeled "care packages" in Fellowship Hall. Suggestions include individual packages/packets of cookies, granola bars, dried fruit, hot chocolate, popcorn or other food. Also needed are post-its, highlighters, pens or other small school items. Checks (for mailing the packages) or \$5 gift cards for students may be dropped off with Janice or mailed to church.

Questions? Contact Mary Santi at [maryfs2154@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryfs2154@sbcglobal.net) or 847-907-1586 (call or text).

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## **St. John PADS**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve, cook and provide groceries for our October 14th PADS evening. With your help, our guests get a hot home cooked dinner, warm safe place to sleep, a continental breakfast and a bag lunch to take with them when they leave in the morning. Our next PADS evening is Thursday November 11th. Your continued support is much appreciated.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4cadae23a5f49-pads6>

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## **Little Free Pantry Update**

The Little Free Pantry has seen a fair amount of activity since it was installed. Popular items have been laundry detergent, tube socks, baby wipes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap and shampoo. A collection bin is in the church for these items (small/travel sizes, please!).

If you are interested in helping monitor and maintain the box, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4EADAC23A7F49-little> to sign up for a 2-week commitment.

Contact Jay Virchow [jayvirchow@hotmail.com](mailto:jayvirchow@hotmail.com) or Jenn Borrell at [jborrell@hotmail.com](mailto:jborrell@hotmail.com) with questions.

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## **Coffee Hour Updates**

Coffee Hour will now be held in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. We ask that you wear a mask when you are not drinking/eating.

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## **Coffee Hour Hosting**

The Spiritual Life Committee would like to invite you to host coffee hour. Hosting coffee hour includes preparing coffee, lemonade, and water, all of which the church provides. Sign-ups are located in Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to sign up but need instructions on how to make the coffee and/or lemonade, please let the office know. A Spiritual Life Committee member can also walk you through the instructions at the church. Thank you for hosting!

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October 10, 2021

## **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Mark 10:17-31

What Must I Do?

*Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week*

Many years ago, ordained United Church of Christ disability rights activist Harold Wilke (1915–2003) wrote, “The festivals of the religious year show forth new meanings for access and liberation: In the glory of Easter – the stone rolled away – we see the barrier removed. In the wonder of Pentecost, the message is heard, understood, and seen by all. In the liberating act of Passover, the message is: “Let My People Go!” and the parting of the Red Sea. In the joy of Advent, God embodies divinity in human form.”

Yet, for many persons today...the barriers still remain; The stone is still in place; The waters are not parted, the way not opened; The words cannot be heard; The flame of the Spirit’s tongues cannot be seen, the message not understood.

Proclaiming the message in all languages for today means using Braille or larger print for people with visual disabilities, signing or special sound systems for persons with hearing disabilities; image, color and drama for people with cognitive disabilities; architectural access for people with physical disabilities or who are getting older.

Let the stone be rolled away! Let the glorious message be proclaimed truly, in all languages so all may hear and understand!”

Wilke’s stirring words begin the guidebook entitled, “Anybody, Everybody, Christ’s body: A Guide for Congregations, Associations and Conferences in Becoming Accessible To All (A2A)”. This guide is invaluable to those congregations that fear that becoming truly physically accessible in their church buildings is fiscally out of reach. After all, the idea of putting in a new elevator or enhanced sound system might seem daunting.

The A2A guidebook is a reminder that just as important as physical and fiscal shifts, are changes in habits and attitudes. While these may take time and spiritual effort, the effect on the church budget may be less than is feared. The process of becoming accessible to all (A2A) begins with an audit of your space, which you can find, along with the A2A guidebook, at the website for the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry ([uccdm.org](http://uccdm.org)).



ST. JOHN UCC JR./SR. HIGH



# FALL YOUTH GROUP GATHERING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

4:30 P.M. AT ST. JOHN

PIZZA & GAMES

At 6:00 P.M., We'll be asking parents to return to St. John to transport kids to the St. John Cemetery, where they'll go on a **St. John Cemetery Scavenger Hunt**, searching for the tombstones of people who were part of the history of St. John!

LET US KNOW IF  
YOUR YOUTH IS  
PLANNING TO  
ATTEND!



E.BURKHARDT@HENRICKSEN.COM



**ST. JOHN**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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