

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



**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**All Saints' Day Remembrance**  
October 31, 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. After receiving an individual cup with wafer, please return to your seat and we will take communion together. If you cannot come forward, a server will bring communion to you. **A gluten-free option is available upon request.**

**Giving** Offering plates are 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

# Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 31, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather, with the company of the faithful:

**Those who know the way to the kingdom, and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.**

We gather, remembering the ones we call saints:

**Those who have no day named after them, and those who shaped our lives.**

We gather, praising God for all who have impacted our faith:

**Those who showed us the compassion of God, and those who taught us to walk in the ways of Jesus.**

PRAYER OF GATHERING

\*OPENING HYMN #25

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, and even to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you.

**Hold us, dear One – comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, showing us the way again. 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.**

NEW TESTAMENT

*Revelation 21:1-6a* [NRSV]

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out*

*of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,*

*'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'*

*Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*When the Saints Go Marching In*

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL (Age 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

GOSPEL READING

*John 11:32-44* [NRSV]

*When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'*

*Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'*

GOSPEL RESPONSE #764

**This is what the Spirit is saying to the churches: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*Saints*

HYMN #298

*O Savior, for the Saints*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Credo for Christians* [James Burklo]

**I worship and adore God, source, essence, and aim of all things,  
spirit that enlivens all beings.**

**I follow the way of Jesus, who found God in himself  
and shared a way for others to find God in themselves.**

**He was born through love, he lived for love, he suffered for love, he died for love,  
but love never dies.**

**I submit myself to the leading of the love that is God,  
that I may be compassionate toward all beings,  
that I may live and serve in community with others,  
that I may ask for and offer forgiveness,  
that I may praise and enjoy God forever.  
Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

##### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES:

- ...Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.**
- ...Teachers of the faith, we remember you.**
- ...Family of our faith, we remember you.**
- ...Those close in our heart, we remember you.**

#### ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE

James Breisch	Jerry Brewer	Betty Jane Middendorf
Frank Kaiser	Linda Czech	Nancy Schweikert
Alice Mehlhop	Jim Davis	Lenore Stelling
Henry Mueller	Lenore Ferber	Carol Stone
Thelma Barker	Dennie Lee Gernenz	Lois Strachan
Sallie Bellicot	Virginia Hollister	Sr. Constance Szymandera
David Borrell	Susan Irwin	Andrea Tabor
Jerry Borrell	Rita Klimczak	

#### 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.**

#### RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE

All are invited to come forward to light a candle in memory of a loved one or loved ones who have died.

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*Just As I Am, without One Plea* — Robert Farlee

#### \*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 #299

*For All the Saints*

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata* — Rene Becker

\*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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**This Sunday's Worship Leaders:** GREETERS: Deb Wittmeyer & Barbara Blye. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Deb Wittmeyer. BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: None. COFFEE: None. SCRIPTURE READER: Deb Wittmeyer. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

**Next Sunday's Worship Leaders:** GREETERS: Barbara Blye, Dave Landeweer & Cindy Giambarberree. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: None. COFFEE: None. SCRIPTURE READER: Sunday School Reader. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON: John Salazar. ALTAR GUILD: Cindy Heiberger.

### **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 "DONATE" button at the top of the page. Once on the Give page, click "DONATE." 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.

**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.

### **The Week Ahead at St. John**

- **Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation Class** – Sunday, October 31, at 9:00 A.M.
- **Sunday Worship – All Saints' Sunday & Sunday School** – Sunday, October 31, at 10:00 A.M. – St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!
- **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, October 31, at 11:00 A.M. – Fellowship Hall
- **Bible Study** – Tuesday, November 2, at 10:00 A.M. – via Zoom.
- **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, November 2, at 6:00 P.M.
- **Spiritual Life Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, November 2, at 7:00 P.M.
- **Conversations on Race** – Wednesday, November 3, at 7:00 P.M.
- **Capital Campaign Steering Committee Mtg.** – Thursday, November 4, at 7:00 P.M.

## Stewardship Sunday at St. John!

Sunday, November 14 will be Stewardship Sunday. This Stewardship Sunday we will be celebrating all of the wonderful things we've seen happening at St. John in the last year, despite the pandemic.

You will be receiving a Stewardship Sunday mailing along with a pledge card and your giving report for the first three quarters of 2021. St. John's leadership hopes that you will consider how you will financially support St. John for 2022 with a pledge and/or thoughtful consideration of your giving.

Below are instructions for pledging. We now have an online pledge form:

1. Fill it out and put it in the offering plate on Stewardship Sunday, November 14, or any Sunday.
2. Fill it out and mail to 308 N. Evergreen Ave. Arlington Heights, IL 60004.
3. Fill it out, take a picture or scan and email to [stjohnfinancialsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnfinancialsecretary@gmail.com).
4. Send an email with your pledge amount to [stjohnfinancialsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnfinancialsecretary@gmail.com).
5. Fill the pledge card out online at:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbEphv\\_-gr15CqaGzw8x\\_D64QvwZxP7aBSB5aFfP11csN3KQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbEphv_-gr15CqaGzw8x_D64QvwZxP7aBSB5aFfP11csN3KQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

We appreciate your gift and pledge!

**Coffee Hour Updates:** Coffee Hour will now be held in Fellowship Hall. We ask that you wear a mask when you are not drinking/eating. 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.

**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>

### 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.

**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).

**Pastor Review and Covid Survey:** The Pastoral Relations Committee have prepared a survey that we would like you to complete. It consists of two parts. The first part is related to the year-end review of Pastor Michael. We would like your feedback as it relates to his job performance. Your ratings and comments will be incorporated into the Committee's Performance Evaluation and presented to Pastor Michael and the Council. It is the goal of the Pastoral Relations committee (David Landeweer, Maureen Temple, and Laurie Travis) to promote open dialogue between the pastor and members of the congregation. Your comments will be reviewed by the Committee and used to prepare the Performance Review of Pastor Michael. Comments received will be shared with Pastor Michael. The second part of the survey is to get feedback regarding St. John and how Covid has affected you and the church. You can use the link on the This Week email that was sent out earlier this week or you can pick up a hard copy in the lobby. Please complete the on-line form or return a hard copy by Sunday, November 7.

**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.

**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. We will read a new book for each meeting. *The next meeting will be 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.*

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)