

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Steve Blye – Arlington Heights, IL

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday
November 14, 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 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. 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 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 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/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

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – 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

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Stewardship Sunday

November 14, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

St. Anthony Chorale — Arr. by Berry and Valey

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF GATHERING

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

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN #8

Praise to the Living God

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, We know that we are already rich, but we often don't see those in our midst who live on meager resources. Even with our wealth, perhaps because of our wealth, we need help to live faithfully. Forgive us, we pray, for the times we have not lived as your people, full of hope.

O God, we come together this day to celebrate St. John in offering our gifts. We delight in the gifts we are giving, the pledges we are making, and the future we are creating. Help us to see ourselves in this place and this community. 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 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.**

PSALTER

Psalm 146 [NRSV]

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

A Celtic Ring (Holy Manna) — Arr. by Susan Geschke

FOOD PANTRY & SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL (Age 4 through 8th Grade)

GOSPEL READING

Mark 12:38-44 [NRSV]

As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

GOSPEL RESPONSE #768

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON

We are St. John

HYMN #370

What Gift Can We Bring?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Creed for Christians [James Burklo]

God is Love, the cosmic creativity present everywhere and in everything, gently urging all toward the good. To Love we raise our awestruck praise!

Jesus embodied the Love that is God. He loved the poor, the sick, the outcast, he loved the unpopular, and even his own enemies. He loved so completely, he loved so dangerously, that it cost him his life.

As Christians we aim to serve humbly, as he did, resurrecting his life of Love through communion with others. The texts and traditions of Christianity give voice to our souls, so that we may support each other in our quests of compassion.

Love is the measure of what is worth following, and what is not, in all religions.

So we pray for a Holy Spirit of discernment to express our faith afresh in new times and places.

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 *Let All Things Now Living* – David Cherwien

*DOXOLOGY #785

**We give you but your own, what-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #565

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

When in Our Music God is Glorified – Albert Travis

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Deb Wittmeyer & Cindy Giambarbaree. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. BULLETIN SPONSOR: Diane & John Salazar. FLOWERS: Wally & Kathie Schultz. COFFEE: Stewardship. SCRIPTURE READER: Maureen Temple. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: John Salazar. ALTAR GUILD: Georgia Runge.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Barbara Blye, Judy Grimes & Dave Landeweer. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. BULLETIN SPONSOR: Diane & John Salazar. FLOWERS: Carol & Charlie Lewis, In Celebration of Charlie's 92nd Birthday. COFFEE: Music Committee. SCRIPTURE READER: Annabelle Temple. CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: John Salazar. ALTAR GUILD: Georgia Runge.

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 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, November 14, at 9:00 A.M.
- **Sunday Worship & Sunday School** – Sunday, November 14, at 10:00 A.M. – St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!
- **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, November 14, at 11:00 A.M. – Fellowship Hall
- **Bible Study** – Tuesday, November 16, at 10:00 A.M. – via Zoom.
- **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, November 16, at 6:00 P.M.
- **Stewardship Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, November 16, at 7:00 P.M.
- **Conversations on Race** – Wednesday, November 17, at 7:00 P.M.
- **St. John Crafters** – Thursday, November 18, at 1:00 P.M.
- **JuBellation Rehearsal** – Sunday, November 21, at 9:15 A.M.

Food Pantry Donations: We're collecting food pantry donations again every Sunday during worship. The kids will pick it up from people as you pass it towards the center aisle. Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry!

We Need Sunday School Teachers! We need your help! Anyone can volunteer and it's a lot of fun! You'll always have support. We're using new, exciting curriculum that is easy to follow. Christian Education Committee Members will be coordinating classes and will make sure teachers have everything they need. Masks will be required.

Please use the sign-up link in the This Week email or, contact the office to sign up: office@stjah.org.

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.
4. Send an email with your pledge amount to 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

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 been popular! Now that the weather is changing, we're looking for some additional items: socks, gloves, hats, and hand warmers. A collection bin for these items is in Fellowship Hall. 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 or Jenn Borrell with questions.

Calendar Drive:

Do you receive calendars from non-profits or your bank? RefugeeOne is hosting a calendar drive and would be happy to take your 2022 calendars off your hands! Refugee families use calendars to help keep track of their schedules in their new homes and lives, and to learn some new words in English. Deposit your calendars in the box in fellowship hall by December 19 and Jenn Borrell will make sure they get to families in need.

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, December 4, at 10:00 A.M. and the book is "Zealot, The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth." by Reza Aslan.*

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.

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.



All are welcome to come and help decorate the sanctuary and church for St. John's annual **Hanging of the Greens** on Sunday, November 21, at 5:00 P.M. Pizza will be served afterwards. A special invitation to the Jr./Sr. High Youth Group!

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

Christmas Poinsettias



We have the opportunity to share our Christmas poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary as we celebrate Christ's birth.

It is a glorious way to remember your loved ones this Holiday Season. The plants are \$8.50 each. Please make your checks payable to St. John.

Please fill out the order form below and return to the church office by **Wednesday, December 8th**. Pick up your poinsettias after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



I wish to purchase ____ poinsettia plants at \$8.50 each.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____.

FROM _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Envelope Number _____