

St. John United Church of Christ

Arlington Heights, Illinois



Sermon on the Mount – Laura James

Reign of Christ

November 21, 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

Reign of Christ

November 21, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Lord's My Shepherd — Dale Wood

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 #301

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God: You who rule over all of us with justice and care, we your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to your rule, that we do not always participate in your reign of equity and integrity, and that we have not followed the example you set forth. Instead we often place our trust in leaders who let us down, and in our own flawed leadership of others.

Lead us, Christ our Sovereign, and set us on the path to righteous rule in all that we do. 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.**

HEBREW BIBLE

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 [NRSV]

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

NEW TESTAMENT

Revelation 1:4b-8 [NRSV]

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing – arr. R. Walters

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

GOSPEL READING

John 18:33-37 [NRSV]

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

GOSPEL RESPONSE #768

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

SERMON

Not From This World

HYMN #300

Jesus Shall Reign

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MISSION MOMENT

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Give Thanks

CCLI Song # 20285 Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 3266027

***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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

God be with you. / **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them up to God Most High.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit...

...We proclaim the glory of your name as we sing (795 in New Century Hymnal):

**Holy, holy, holy, God of the heavenly host;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

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.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***CLOSING HYMN #304**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Come, You Thankful People, Come — David Cherwien

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

Hymns reproduced with permission under Christian Copyright Licensing International, license #3266027.

St. John UCC CCLI Copyright License 3266027 CCLI Streaming License 20171680

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE License #A-731362. All rights reserved.

Today we welcome Shelley Welch from WINGS as a Mission Moment Speaker. Shelley is the Senior Manager of Annual Fund Giving at WINGS. In her role, Shelley works with individuals, organizations, faith communities, and businesses to generate financial gifts for WINGS. Shelley has an MA in Intercultural Studies and has worked in the non-profit sector, with extensive international experience, focusing on social justice issues. Welcome, Shelley!

This 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.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Holly Petersen, Judy Grimes, Cindy Giambarbaree & The Temples. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judy Grimes. BULLETIN SPONSOR: Diane & John Salazar. FLOWERS: Diane & John Salazar. COFFEE: Mary Santi & Barbara Jo Scott. SCRIPTURE READER: Penny Donehoo. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Jo Scott. 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 21, at 9:00 A.M.
- **JuBellation Rehearsal** – Sunday, November 21, at 9:15 A.M.
- **Sunday Communion Worship & Sunday School** – Sunday, November 21, at 10:00 A.M. – St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!
- **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, November 21, at 11:00 A.M. – Fellowship Hall
- **Hanging of the Greens** – Sunday, November 21, at 5:00 P.M.
- **Bible Study** – Tuesday, November 23, at 10:00 A.M. – via Zoom.
- **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, November 23, at 6:00 P.M.
- **Christian Education Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, November 23, at 7:00 P.M.
- **Happy Thanksgiving (Church Office Closed)** – Thursday, November 25
- **Day after Thanksgiving (Church Office Closed)** – Friday, November 26

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!

On Sunday, November 14, we celebrated Stewardship Sunday. If you haven't had an opportunity to turn in your pledge card and would still like to do so, please follow the instructions below.

1. Fill it out and put it in the offering plate on 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.

Capital Campaign Matching Gift Opportunity: St. John has raised \$550,000 in our Capital Campaign! Thank you for your generosity and support! Another exciting development in the Capital Campaign is the \$25,000 matching challenge gift given by a St. John member. This next exciting opportunity to upgrade our church home invites the congregation to extend our campaign and "raise the roof" by helping us match this \$25,000 gift for a new roof. To take part in helping us reach this generous matching gift, please note "Capital Campaign Matching Challenge" on your gift.

St. John PADS: Thank you for supporting St John's commitment to feeding the homeless. We are planning on providing shelter and meals in Dec and there are a few opportunities still open for St John's efforts Thursday Dec. 9th.

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

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.

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.

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 _____

ADVENT
&
CHRISTMAS
at St. John - 2021

November 21 - 5:00 P.M.
Hanging of the Greens

November 28, December 5, December 12, & December 19 - 10:00 A.M.
First, Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays of Advent
In Person and Livestream

December 5 - 11:00 A.M.
Capital Campaign Celebration Coffee Hour after Worship
In Person and Livestream

December 12 - 10:00 A.M.
Christmas Music from Bell Choirs, Worship Band and More
In Person and Livestream

December 21 (Tuesday) - 7:00 P.M.
Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship
In Person and Livestream

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 P.M. & 9:00 P.M.

Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

In Person & Livestream



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE ST. JOHN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
STEERING COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO

CELEBRATION COFFEE HOUR

Celebrating the Generosity and Commitment
of St. John Members and Friends

\$550,000 Pledged and/or Received!

Sunday, December 4 after 10:00 A.M.
Worship during Coffee Hour



**COME FOR THE CELEBRATION! DELICIOUS FOOD /
REVIEW COMPLETED PROJECTS / PRESENT UPCOMING
LOBBY RENOVATION / ANSWER QUESTIONS**

