

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 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

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

GREETING

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.

We worship in the name of the Creator, Christ, and Divine Spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Emmanuel! God with us! Hear our plea!

Come, O Redeemer! Be here now.

*OPENING HYMN #110

Now Bless the God of Israel

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One: It is never easy for us to confess our sins. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we often ignore their cries for help.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16 [NRSV]

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36 [NRSV]

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

GOSPEL RESPONSE #116

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

CCLI Song # 5601640 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash © 2009 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Wondrously Made Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 3266027

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

SERMON

Here Comes Jesus

HYMN #103

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

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

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Mary's Little Boy Child — Jester Hairston

*DOXOLOGY #781

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore.**

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.**

God of Advent...

...With the angels, we proclaim the glory of your name as we sing

(792 in New Century Hymnal):

**Holy, holy, holy God, Ruler Almighty;
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God.
Blessed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of 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 #117

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing – Frederick Steffen

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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This 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.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Cooper Family, Dave Landeweer, Holly Petersen & Judy Grimes. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Landeweer. BULLETIN SPONSOR: Kurka Family. FLOWERS: Swenson Family. COFFEE: Capital Campaign. SCRIPTURE READER: Sunday School Reader. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON: Dave Landeweer & Lana Cochran. 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. Give 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 28, at 9:00 A.M.
- **Sunday Worship & Sunday School** – Sunday, November 28, at 10:00 A.M. – St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!
- **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, November 28, at 11:00 A.M. – Fellowship Hall
- **Bible Study** – Tuesday, November 30, at 10:00 A.M. – via Zoom.
- **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, November 30, at 6:00 P.M.
- **St. John Crafters** – Thursday, December 2, at 1:00 P.M.
- **Capital Campaign Steering Committee Meeting** – Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 P.M.

- **Pastor's Reading Group** – Saturday, December 4, at 10:00 A.M. – via Zoom

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.

Christmas Carol Singalong at St. John: Join us at St. John for Christmas caroling in our sanctuary on Wednesday, December 22 at 5:00 P.M. We'll sing all your favorites and will be led by Alberto Mantovano and Colleen Kave. We hope to see you there!

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. We appreciate your help.

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.

Capital Campaign Update: The Capital Campaign Committee has selected a contractor to perform the work in the lobby area. We are in the process of finalizing the permit with the Village and anticipate work to begin before the end of the year. We will be sending out additional information once we have a firm idea as to when work will begin.

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.

**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

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 22 (Wednesday) - 5:00 P.M.
Christmas Carol Singalong
In Person

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



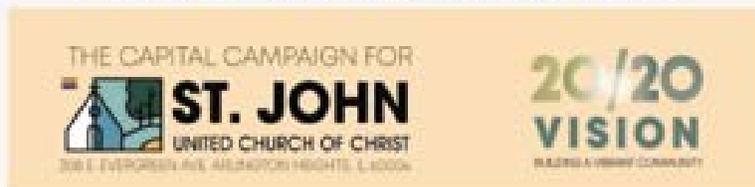
THE ST. JOHN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
STEERING COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO

CELEBRATION COFFEE HOUR

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

\$550,000 Pledged and/or Received!

Sunday, December 5 after 10:00 A.M.
Worship during Coffee Hour



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

