

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



After the Thunderstorm - The Oxbow -- Thomas Cole, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 7, 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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 7, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *[Based on Psalm 16]*

Come, bless God who guides us, whose wise teaching directs our days and focuses our minds at night; whose presence sustains us and surrounds us here.

We bless God who is present among us. We will not be shaken or live in fear, but will sing God's praise and worship with joy!

PRAYER OF GATHERING

*OPENING HYMN #4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Merciful God, we are not only convicted by that which we have done, but by that which we have left undone. Forgive us for the moments when we've stayed silent. Forgive us for the moments when we've chosen comfort over justice. Forgive us for the moments when we've done what's easy instead of what's right.

**O God, give us courage to respond to your Gospel not just in the moments when it is convenient but especially in the moments when it's the hardest thing to 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 / OLD TESTAMENT

Daniel 12:1-3 [NRSV]

'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

PSALTER

Psalm 16 [NRSV]

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.' As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Amazing Grace – Arr. by Patricia Cota

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL (Age 4 through 8th Grade)

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:1-8 [NRSV]

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

GOSPEL RESPONSE #768

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

SERMON

The Day of God

HYMN #611

O Day of God, Draw Near

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

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Nothing is Wasted

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*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 (793 in New Century Hymnal):

**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.**

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 #610

My Eyes Have Seen the Glory

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God – arr. Douglas Wagner

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Barbara Blye, Dave Landeweer & Cindy Giambarberee.
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: None. COFFEE: Dave

Landeweer. SCRIPTURE READER: Owen Hong. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON: John Salazar. ALTAR GUILD: Cindy Heiberger.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Deb Wittmeyer & Cindy Giambarbaree. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. BULLETIN SPONSOR: None. FLOWERS: None. COFFEE: Stewardship. SCRIPTURE READER: Maureen Temple. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. 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 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 7, at 9:00 A.M.
- **Sunday Communion Worship & Sunday School** – Sunday, November 7, at 10:00 A.M. – St. John Sanctuary & Streaming Live!
- **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, November 7, at 11:00 A.M. – Fellowship Hall
- **Bible Study** – Tuesday, November 9, at 10:00 A.M. – via Zoom.
- **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, November 9, at 6:00 P.M.
- **Council Meeting** – Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 P.M.
- **Brownie Troop Meeting** – Wednesday, November 10, at 4:00 P.M.
- **Conversations on Race** – Wednesday, November 10, at 7:00 P.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.

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.

St. John's Youth Greenery and Wreath

Fundraiser is underway! Please see Julie Kurka after church or email 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.

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

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



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!

November 7, 2021

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Risk and Restoration

All Saints Day and All Souls Day are observances of the lives of ordinary people in creating and maintaining the reign of God. This week, we hear the story of generations - a grandmother Naomi, parents Ruth and Boaz, and a child named Obed (who was himself a grandfather and father).

As we celebrate the gifts of these generations, consider being in prayer with the generations this week, using this guide or another.

Monday: Pray for your ancestors in faith. Pray for those whose stories are told in scripture, and those who are known through other stories. Ask to be guided to knowledge by their wisdom, to gain understanding through their errors and to be strong in your faith as they were in theirs.

Tuesday: Pray for the ancestors in your church. Pray for those who founded your congregation, for those who built the building in which you worship, for those - both lay and ordained - who have sustained your congregation through the years.

Wednesday: Pray for the ancestors in your own family. Give thanks for the gifts you have been given by your family and pray to release any burdens you may carry that have been passed to you.

Thursday: Pray for the children in your life. Whether these are children in the church, in your own family or in your neighborhood, ask for God's guiding hand to move with and through them.

Friday: Pray for the children of the world who have no one to pray for them. Pray that God works in their lives and shows them that they are beloved.

Saturday: Pray for yourself as an ancestor. Ask to be given the courage and the wisdom to be a helpful and wholesome ancestor. Ask that you may be a blessing to future generations, as those who have blessed you have been.