

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



**Christmas Day**  
December 25, 2022

# Welcome to St. John

**Welcome** Thank you for joining us for in-person worship today!

**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 the first & third Sundays of the month. All are invited to come forward, row by row. 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.

**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.

**Wifi Network & Password** Guest & StJohnGuest

## CONTACT US –

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[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

# Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INVOCATION

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to the Holy One! Emmanuel reigns! O God of the Incarnation, we gather to consider your marvelous works.

**Wonderful Counselor, we gather to delight in your revelation.**

**Prince of Peace, we gather to become messengers of your good news!**

\*OPENING HYMN #144

*Hark! The Herald Angels*

*Sing*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you have made all things beautiful, yet all too often our attention is arrested by the ugliness of the world. The cruelty of humanity toward one another and creation overwhelms us in its depth and persistence. So often we revel in acrimony and discord and reject the beloved community you invite us to join and co-create with you.

**But you enter into our lives with good news, redeeming hope, and contagious joy. Help us to choose your way every day as we do this day. May the beauty of Christmas be the good news that carries us and empowers us toward new life in you. Amen.**

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

\*HYMN #125

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

COMMUNITY LIFE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 98

*O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory. The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.*

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

*Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.*

**He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 1:1-4

*Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

HYMN #140

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

SERMON

HYMN #128

In the Bleak Midwinter

GATHERING OF PRAYER REQUESTS & PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* — arr. Hugh Livingston, Jr.

\*DOXOLOGY #148 [Verse 3]

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION, PRAYER, & 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 CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING

\*CLOSING HYMN [See insert: Verses 1, 2, 3, & 6]

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Hark! The Herald angels Sing* — arr. Joel Raney

\*Indicates when congregation may stand.

**Bolded text** is intended to be read in unison by the whole congregation.

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This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Cindy Giambarberee, Dennis Roesslein & Dave Landeweer. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Landeweer. BULLETIN SPONSOR: Roberta Morand, In memory of Loved Ones. FLOWERS:. COFFEE: Roberta Morand. SCRIPTURE READER: Frank Styzek. CALLED TO CARE:. SEXTON: Dave Landeweer. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Holly Petersen, Cindy Giambarberee & Dennis Roesslein. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. BULLETIN SPONSOR:. FLOWERS:. COFFEE:. SCRIPTURE READER: Charlie Lewis. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON:. ALTAR GUILD:.

## The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Christmas Day Worship** – Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 A.M.
  - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, December 27 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Conversations on Race** – Tuesday, December 27 at 7:00 P.M.
  - **PADS** – Wednesday, December 28 at 7:00 P.M. & Friday, December 30 at 7:00 P.M.
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**Little Free Pantry Announcement:** The Little Free Pantry continues to be well utilized. Gloves, hats, hand warmers, socks and laundry detergent are needed items. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are also needed. With St. John serving as a PADS site, the Little Free Pantry will potentially start to reach more individuals in need. Thank you for your continued donations and support. If you would like to help with maintaining the pantry, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2uzc4tdf> to sign up for a 2-week commitment.

**Food Pantry Focus:** The Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry is thankful for St. John's continued donations. The following items are most needed: 12/25 - Any of the above choices; 1/1 – All types of canned soup; 1/8 – Peanut butter, 16 oz. to 28 oz. max.; 1/15 – White rice, 1-2 lb. bags/boxes (or Rice-a-Roni, if plain white is not available); 1/22 - Any of the above choices; 1/29 – All types of canned soups. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

**Giving to St. John at the End of the Year:** As we approach the end of the tax year, there are a few things we would like to remind you of as you consider your financial support of St. John. Thank you for your generosity!

**1. Annual Prepaid Giving:** If you would like to make a gift in 2022 to be credited to your giving for 2023, please mark your check 2023 Giving in the memo line. If you are giving online, use the “other” category and write 2023 Giving.

**2. Minimum Distribution Gifts:** St. John's members & friends give generously in many ways. It may be time to think about your IRA. Those with an IRA, who are over 70 ½ years, may qualify to make a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). The IRA administrator will send the amount you request directly to St. John. Because assets go directly to a non-profit, the donor doesn't report the QCD as taxable income and doesn't owe any taxes on the QCD. Contact your Tax Advisor/IRA Administrator if you're interested.

**Christmas Fund: UCC Special Offering - Sunday, December 25:** St. John is collecting the UCC's annual offering that helps provide pension and health premium supplements to low-income retired church workers and emergency assistance to clergy families in need.

**Conversations on Race:** The St. John & Temple Beth Am discussion group will be starting a new book on Tuesday January 24, 7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom. The Sum of Us, What Racism Costs Everyone And How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee will be our focus. We'll start with the Introduction and chapter 1: An Old Story: The Zero-Sum Hierarchy, 26 pages.

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom. Tom and Martha Mockaitis lead the discussions and everyone contributes as they like. The group welcomes new folks and will read the book into the spring months, a few chapters each time.

There is no quiz! Please let Martha or Tom know if you would like to join in and the Zoom link will be provided.

December 25, 2022 / **Christmas Day** / Isaiah 52:7-10

Voice One: Radiant Child, On this Christmas day, we pray for peace to fill us,  
as the waters renew a dry and desolate landscape

Voice Two: How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace!

Voice One: Radiant Child, on this Christmas day, we pray for hope to guide us forward,  
making a way where the path is rocky.

Voice Two: All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!

Voice One: Radiant Child, on this Christmas Day, we pray for joy to uplift us,  
carrying us on the swift currents of laughter and community.

Voice Two: Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy!

Voice One: Radiant Child, on this Christmas Day, we pray for love to surround us,  
as the comforting and loving embrace of a trusted friend.

Voice Two: For the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Voice One: Peace, Hope, Joy and Love!

May they fill, guide, uplift, and surround us now and always. Amen!



**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.