

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



St. John Watercolor / Painted by Steve Blye for Pastor Michael's Installation Gift, 2016

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2023

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 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 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 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 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 | 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

Second Sunday after Epiphany

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GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING & WELCOME

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

And also with you.

INVOCATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP** [Inspired by Psalm 40]

O God, you called us by name to come, and we respond with delight and gladness.

In joyful obedience, we come to worship our God.

Rising out of the depths of despair, we gratefully gather for worship.

In joyful hope, we come to worship our loving God.

Our God had given us a new song of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

In joyful trust, we come to worship our God. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #51**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left your light. We sometimes follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune and those dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. Forgive us for not seeking the true light of your love for all the world. Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another.

Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion, and justice, in which the mystery of your love is revealed. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

***GLORIA #759**

**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.**

COMMUNITY LIFE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW TESTAMENT

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

*Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to
be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
both their Lord and ours:*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you
in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of
every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you
are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He
will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord
Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.*

SONG

Build My Life

**Worthy of every song we could ever sing.
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for You.**

**Jesus, the name that shows us the loving way.
Jesus the one who calls us to love today.**

**Holy, there is no one like You. There is none beside You.
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
and lead me in Your love to those around me.**

**I will build my life upon Your love; it is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust within your hope and I will not be shaken.**

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CHANCEL CHOIR

In Thee, O Lord, Do I Put my Trust — arr. Morine Nyquist

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

[Children may help collect and bring forward food pantry donations and will be dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Prayer of Dedication.]

CHILDREN'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION [All are welcome to join in this prayer with the children.]

Pastor

Bless this food, /
and all who eat it. /
Thank you, God, /
for inviting us /
to help feed the hungry. /
Amen. /

Children & Congregation:

**Bless this food,
and all who eat it.
Thank you, God,
for inviting us
to help feed the hungry.
Amen.**

GOSPEL

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

SERMON

HYMN #397

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

GATHERING OF PRAYER REQUESTS & PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Bread of the World – David Cherwien

There can be no flourishing for some of us without liberation for all of us. Our offering gives us the opportunity to invest in our collective liberation. May our giving be a revelation of God's love, made known and being made known in our midst.

***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.

Eternal God...With the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, God Most High, singing [#795 Seraphic Hymn]:

**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

LITURGY OF FAREWELL

Rev. Stephanie Perdew [Associate Conference Minister for Pastoral Transitions in the Illinois Conference, UCC]:

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Pastor Michael.

On January 19, 2016 St. John United Church of Christ called Rev. Michael Jones to serve as pastor.

Pastor Michael: I thank St. John, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last seven years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

***Congregation:* We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Pastor Michael: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE

Rev. Perdew: Do you, the members and friends of St. John release Rev. Michael Jones from the duties of pastor?

***Congregation:* We do, with the help of God.**

Rev. Perdew: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry soon to begin as an Associate Conference Minister of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ?

***Congregation:* We do, with the help of God.**

Rev. Perdew: Do you, Pastor Michael, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Pastor Michael: I do, with the help of God.

Rev. Perdew: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Pastor Michael: I do, with the help of God.

Rev. Perdew: On behalf of the Illinois Conference and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Leaders: Thanks be to God.

*Leader: Please stand for prayer. O God, we give thanks for remembered time when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Pastor Michael in worship, in learning, in service. We pray that Pastor Michael will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as he and his family move. We give you thanks for Blake, Paige, and Lucia and their presence and part in our community. May they be blessed in their futures and may their time at St. John bring fond memories. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Christ.

*Congregation: Amen.

*HYMN #355

God, the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata — Theodore DuBois

*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: The Temples, Holly Petersen, Barbara Blye & Judy Grimes. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. COFFEE: Council & Church. SCRIPTURE: Colleen Kave. CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: Steve Blye. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson & Georgia Runge.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Dennis Roesslein & Dave Landeweer. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. COFFEE: Cooper Family for Hanna's 10th Birthday! SCRIPTURE READER: Barbara Crum. CALLED TO CARE: . SEXTON: Steve Blye. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson & Georgia Runge.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Second Sunday after Epiphany** – Sunday, January 15 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Special Brunch in Honor of Pastor Michael** – Sunday, January 15 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, January 17 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, January 17 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Stewardship Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, January 18 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Cards** – Thursday, January 19 at 1:00 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Friday, January 20 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **St. John Social** – Saturday, January 21 at 5:00 P.M.
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Welcome to Rev. Stephanie Perded, Associate Conference Minister for Pastoral Transitions in the Illinois Conference: Rev. Perded joins us today for the Liturgy of Farewell with Pastor Michael. We are grateful for her presence.

Little Free Pantry Announcement: The Little Free Pantry continues to be well utilized. Gloves, hats, hand warmers, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and laundry detergent are needed items. With St. John serving as a PADS site, the Little Free Pantry will reach even more people in need. Thank you for your continued support. Sign up to help for a 2-week commitment at <https://tinyurl.com/2uzc4tdf>.

Food Pantry Focus: The Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry is thankful for our weekly donations. The following items are most needed: 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; 1/29 – All types of canned soups. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

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. All are welcome! Please let Martha or Tom know if you would like to join in and the Zoom link will be provided.

Special Brunch: Pastor Michael's last day at St. John is Sunday, January 15. Michael, Blake and family will be departing for a new career in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. We are planning a special brunch in their honor to celebrate their time with us at St. John. Please RSVP to Janice at the office by either email (office@stjah.org) or phone (847-255-6687) by today in order to inform the caterer. We will have a memory book on hand in which you may write your well wishes or even insert photos into the book. Additionally, we will be collecting for a farewell/thank you gift for the family. Please contact the office or anyone from the Spiritual Life Committee to donate to their gift.

St John Social Potluck: Happy New Year! On Saturday, January 21 @ 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall, St. John Social will gather in Fellowship Hall for another potluck dinner. The theme this month is **Family Traditions and Memories**. Maybe you can bring a favorite dish that represents your cultural heritage or one that brings back special childhood memories! After dinner we can share some of our traditions and memories. Please RSVP to Sue Kaiser or Barbara Jo Scott. All are welcome to join us!

St. John Pastoral Transition: St. John's Council is happy to announce that a call was extended to an interim pastor and they have accepted! We cannot announce the name yet but will in the coming weeks. St. John received seven interim profiles and interviewed four interim pastors initially. Please see the pastoral transition timeline below:

January 15: Pastor Michael's Last Sunday Farewell Brunch

January 22, 29, February 5, 12: Rev. Paris Donehoo will be preaching and leading worship at St. John. Many of you know Paris as an active St. John member who plays in the worship band and sings in the choir. Paris will be leading worship and on call for emergencies. Thank you, Paris, for your willingness to step in during this time of transition!

February 13: The new interim pastor starts at St. John.

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John 1:29-42

All That We Are

Each week, the UCC Witness and Worship Artists' Group makes available a wealth of resources to enrich your worship service - prayers, psalms, liturgy, scripture studies, sermon starters and more are available by searching the internet for Worship Ways at the United Church of Christ. Here is the Invocation for the worship liturgy created by Rev. Trayce Potter for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday.

Invocation

*God of our weary years and God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way,*

we invite your presence into our midst

as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality and love.

We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us

to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr.

so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted,

every hill and mountain made low,

the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight

so that the glory of the Lord is revealed,

and all flesh see it together.

Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities
and cultures, and respect the content of their character.

Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow

until all God's children can say with full conviction,

"Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last." Amen.

https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/martin_luther_king_weekend_service_january_

*This service quotes from **Our God is Marching On**, and **Letter from Birmingham Jail**, by Martin Luther King, Jr. Lines in italics quote from **We Shall Overcome #570** in **The New Century Hymnal**, and **Lift Every Voice and Sing #593** in **The New Century Hymnal**



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST www.stjah.org

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.