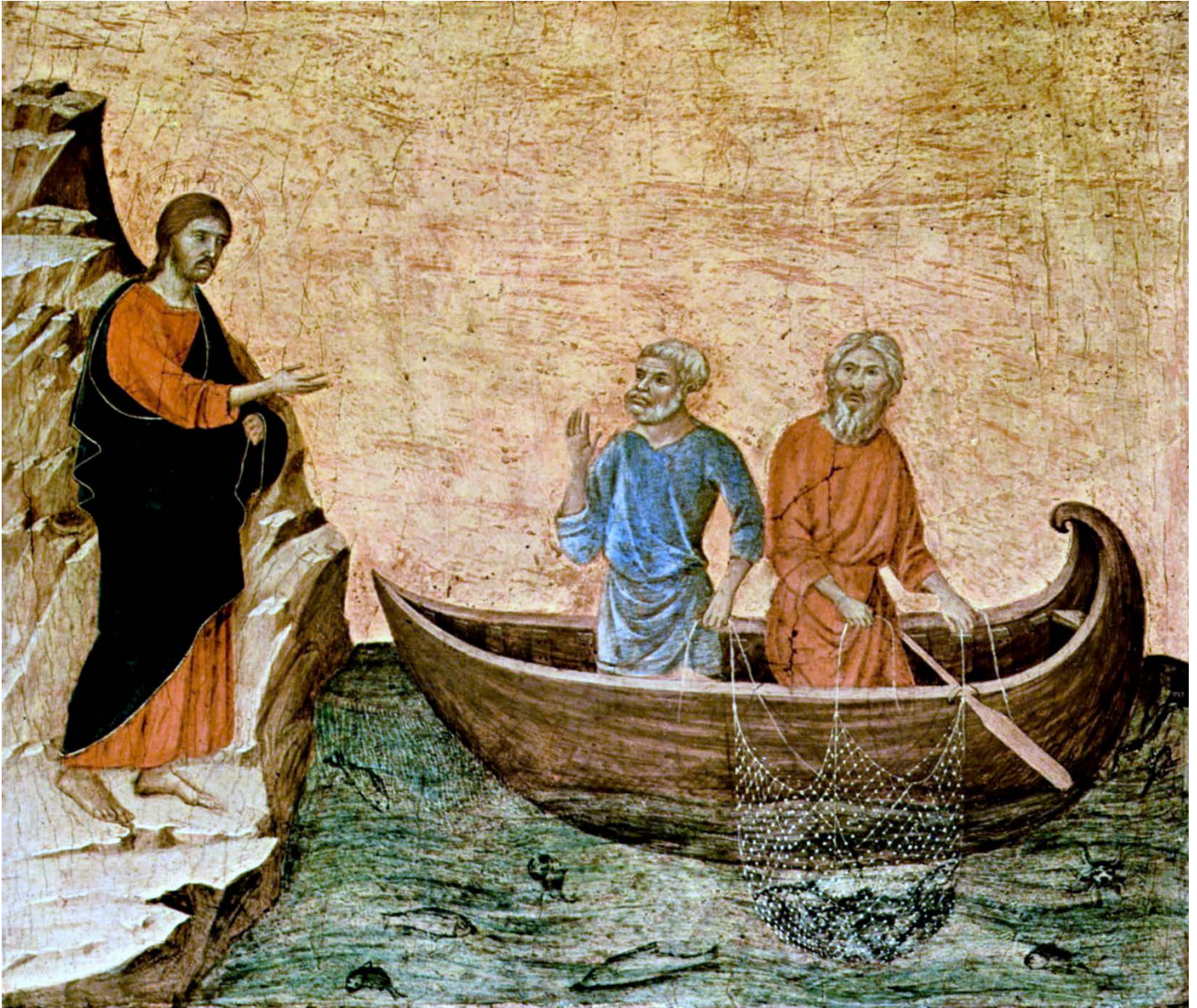


**St. John United Church of Christ**  
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew, Duccio, di Buoninsegna, 1319?

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
January 29, 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](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 the office at [office@stjah.org](mailto:office@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 –

308 N. Evergreen Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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Office: 847.255.6687

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

## STAFF –

Rev. Paris Donehoo, Pastor

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

# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

## GATHERING MUSIC

### GREETING

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.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Psalm 27*)

Wait for God; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

**God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

Wait for God; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

**God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Wait for God; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

**We come in hope of seeing God's goodness in the land of the living.**

**We will wait for God.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #436

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our Light and Salvation,

**Forgive us for those moments when we have walked in darkness,  
stumbling in the wilderness of quarrels, division, and bickering.**

**You have called us to follow you and to fish for people**

**but too often we think that our way is the only way to do your will.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for the brokenness that we bring upon ourselves.**

### \*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.**

## WELCOME & COMMUNITY LIFE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEW TESTAMENT

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 [NRSV]

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 4:12-23 [NRSV]

*Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

*As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.*

*Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.*

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

CHILDREN'S GATHERING [Children will be dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Gathering]

## SONG

## *I Will Follow*

**Where You go I'll go; Where You stay I'll stay  
When You move I'll move  
I will follow**

**All Your ways are good; All Your ways are sure  
I will trust in You alone  
Higher than my sight; High above my life  
I will trust in You alone**

**Where You go I'll go; Where You stay I'll stay  
When You move I'll move**

**I will follow You  
Whom You love I'll love; How You serve I'll serve  
If this life I lose, I will follow You**

**Light into the world; Light into my life  
I will live for You alone  
You're the One I seek; Knowing I will find  
All I need in You alone  
In You alone**

**In You there's life everlasting  
In You there's freedom for my soul  
In You there's joy, unending joy  
And I will follow**

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**SERMON**

***A CALL TOWARD MINISTRY***

**HYMN #503**

***O Savior, Let Me Walk with You***

**COMMUNITY 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.**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY**

***What a Friend We Have in Jesus* — Arr. Janet Vogt**

**\*DOXOLOGY #780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #391**

***In the Midst of New Dimensions***

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*The Solid Rock* – Arr. Tom Birchwood

\*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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

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Thank you to Rev. Paris Donehoo for preaching and leading worship at St. John through February 12! Paris is a retired, ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Paris and his wife, Penny, are active members here at St. John. You may have seen him playing in the worship band, singing in the choir, and preaching. Paris has served UCC churches in the Chicago area and is originally from Georgia. We appreciate Paris' willingness to fill in until the new interim pastor arrives.

This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Judy Grimes & Holly Petersen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judy Grimes. COFFEE: Grace Breisch & Sue Kaiser. SCRIPTURE: Barbara Blye. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Steve Blye. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson & Georgia Runge.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Barbara Blye, Cindy Giambarberee & Dave Landeweer. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. FLOWERS: Barbara Jo Scott. COFFEE: Barbara Jo Scott, Emma & Brayden. SCRIPTURE READER: Michelle Johns. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON: ALTAR GUILD: Roberta Morand.

## The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany** – Sunday, January 29 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **St. John Annual Congregational Meeting & Coffee Hour** – Sunday, January 29 at 11:00 A.M.
  - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, January 31 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, January 31 at 6:00 P.M.
  - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, February 1 at 6:45 P.M.
  - **PADS** – Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00 P.M.
  - **Cards** – Thursday, February 2 at 1:00 P.M.
  - **PADS** – Friday, February 3 at 7:00 P.M.
- 

**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: 1/29 – All types of canned soups; 2/5 – Canned fruit; 2/12 - White rice, 1-2 lb. bags/boxes (or Rice-a-Roni, if plain white is not

available); 2/19 - All types of canned soups; 2/26 – Canned meats and fish. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

**Conversations on Race:** The St. John & Temple Beth Am discussion group started a new book entitled The Sum of Us, What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee. 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 and the Zoom link will be provided.

**St. John Social - Save the Dates!** Looking for something to do on these gray days? St John Social will gather February 11th in Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner and evening of friendly trivia. You might want to brush up on your Valentine's Day trivia. Then on March 11th we will gather for a potluck dinner and enjoy Game Night. Save April 8th and look for details in the bulletins. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of good food, good friends and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome. Please let Sue Kaiser or Barbara Jo Scott know you are coming just so we set enough places!

**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! Here is the pastoral transition timeline:  
**January 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:** Rev. Judy Wang, the new interim pastor starts at St. John and her first Sunday leading worship will be **February 19**. We look forward to welcoming her.

January 29, 2023 / **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany** / Matthew 5:1-12 / The Vision Beautiful  
*Health and Human Service Sunday*

Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those with illnesses of the mind and heart, the diseases and dis-eases of these troubled days, and blessed are those who facilitate the slow work of healing. Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are those who wail with the grief of loss, and blessed are those who abide with the ones who weep.

Blessed are the meek. Blessed are the children who have been abandoned to circumstance, and bless those who fill the absences in those precious lives with warmth and commitment. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are those at the mercy of mean and chilly streets, and blessed are those who offer a warm meal, a dry bed and the promise of a transformed society where all have plenty. Amen.

*Today, we gather together with the whole United Church of Christ in observing Health and Human Service Sunday. We bear witness to the faithful heritage the UCC has in co-creating spaces of wholeness with communities across this country and around the world. The UCC and its predecessor denominations courageously founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages during times of pandemic, war, and social upheaval. Now, there are more than 400 UCC affiliated health care centers, hospitals, affordable housing and retirement communities, transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, and service centers for children, youth, families, and those with developmental disabilities. These ministries continue to show up in the most challenging circumstances—and do so with the fervor of healing and justice. It is thus a day to celebrate*

*that the life of the church is vibrant beyond our church walls and outreach ministries.* “Health and Human Service Sunday.” <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/health-and-human-service-sunday/>

### **Announcing St. John's New Interim Pastor: Rev. Judy Wang**

Rev. Judy Wang is a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ. Baptized at the Congregational UCC in Elmhurst, IL, she was raised and confirmed at First Church Lombard. After graduating from Elmhurst College, she went to work for the Lyric Opera of Chicago for two years. Feeling the call to ministry, she enrolled at Chicago Theological Seminary, where she met her husband of 34 years, Rev. Bob Wang. She was ordained in 1989.

Judy has served churches in Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin. She completed the Intentional Interim Ministry training in 2000. Judy and Bob have lived in Bristol, WI for the last 22 years. They have two adult children - a son who lives in St. Paul, MN and a daughter in Portland, OR. The nest is empty, except for the cat, Sebastian, and the newly adopted Boston Terrier, Karl!

Rev. Judy will start at St. John on February 13 and her first Sunday leading worship will be February 19. We look forward to welcoming her!



**ST. JOHN**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST [www.stjah.org](http://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.