

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Sermon on the Mount, Laura James, 2010

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 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 the office at 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 –

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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. Paris Donehoo, Pastor

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

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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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

Let us worship the One who calls us.

**Here we are, ready or not, called by the One who lived and died
and rose to live again among us.**

Here we are, ready or not, bringing our everyday selves to praise and to pray, to know the Holy One in the midst of our lives.

Let us worship the One who calls us.

*OPENING HYMN #66

O Day of Radiant Gladness

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we confess that we have taken your commandments
and turned them into rules.**

**We have criticized those who have fallen short
and selfishly proclaimed ourselves righteous.**

**We have failed to understand the spirit of the commandments
and the way that was shown by you to live,
loving God and loving our neighbors.**

**Forgive us for turning your law into burdens
for others and ourselves,
instead of a way to love and freedom in you.**

**In the name of Christ,
who has given us the way and leads us on, we pray. 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 #236

HALLELUJAH

**Halle, halle, hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah**

Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

WELCOME & COMMUNITY LIFE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUBELLATION

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian — arr. by Lloyd Larson

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37 [NRSV]

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

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

BELL TONES

Shalom Chaverim - arr. by Susan Geschke

SERMON

MATTERS OF THE HEART

HYMN #498

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

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

I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ – J.S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY #776

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, the Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously to bless your church, your people, your creation.

*CLOSING HYMN #394

In Christ There Is No East or West

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D Major – Rene Becker

*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: Dave Landeweer & Cindy Giambarberee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennie Roesslein. FLOWERS: Steve Blye in Honor of Barbara's Birthday.

COFFEE: Riley Family for Madelyn's 9th Birthday. SCRIPTURE: Dave Tashima. CALLED TO

CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: ALTAR GUILD: Roberta Morand.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: ANNOUNCEMENTS: FLOWERS: Wally &

Kathie Schultz. COFFEE: Spiritual Life. SCRIPTURE READER: Owen Hong. CALLED TO CARE:

Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: ALTAR GUILD: Roberta Morand.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany** – Sunday, February 12 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, February 12 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Book Club** – Monday, February 13 at 2:00 P.M.
 - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, February 14 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Spiritual Life Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Council Meeting** – Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, February 15 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Cards** – Thursday, February 16 at 1:00 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Friday, February 17 at 7:00 P.M.
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Congregational United Church of Christ Lenten Series: Pastor Steve Welker from the Congregational United Church of Christ is offering a six-week Lenten series on a book called “A Clearing Season: Reflections for Lent” by Sarah Parsons. This series will be offered at two separate times during the Wednesdays of Lent: March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29 and April 5 at noon-2:00 pm (bring a sack lunch) and 5:00-7:00 pm (a simple soup dinner will be served). All sessions will be held at the Congregational United Church of Christ (1001 W. Kirchoff Rd.) in Arlington Heights. Contact Pat Harris to get a copy of the book and to sign up for any or all of these sessions! (pharrislbi@hotmail.com)

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: 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:
February 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.

February 12, 2023 / **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany** / Matthew 5:21-37 / From the Heart
Racial Justice Sunday/Science and Technology Sunday

First Congregational Church UCC of Poughkeepsie, NY knows that most people find new churches through webpages, and they want to assure that all who visit understand their stand on the importance of science as a companion to faith. Their website has a whole page dedicated to explaining their stance on the value of science.

“For too long, science and faith have had a combustible relationship...Some people like to describe science as being true whether you believe in it or not because it is based in conducting repeatable experiments, collecting measurable data and arriving at conclusions that match the data. Many consider faith, if not contrary to science, at least completely separate from it because they regard faith as believing in what cannot be proven.

But in the United Church of Christ, we don't regard science and faith as mutually exclusive, or as occupying completely separate realms. Instead, we want them to be engaged in conversation because we think they each have something to offer to the other. For we trust that God is still speaking, and we listen for God's voice not just in places of quiet contemplation or majestic beauty, but also in labs and lecture halls, through the lenses of microscopes and telescopes, in moments of discovery and through efforts to understand the world around us. We value intellectual curiosity and the way that science can uncover new information that expands our perspective. Because we are committed to service, social and economic justice, and careful stewardship of creation, we also are interested in the ways scientific discoveries can support or undermine these commitments.

So it is not surprising that since 2008, our congregation has chosen to recognize in worship the mutually valuable insights that can be gained when science and faith are in open and honest dialogue with one another. Indeed we desire a faith that is “scientifically sophisticated, technologically advanced, morally just, ecologically sustainable, and spiritually alive.” (from the UCC's Pastoral Letter on Faith Engaging Science and Technology).

We want to make clear the UCC's belief that science and religion are not mutually exclusive, and we extend our unequivocal welcome to persons who devote their lives to scientific inquiry, no matter the discipline.

We are a thoughtful, thinking church.”

“Faith and Science.” www.opentogod.org/science.

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

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.