

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



St. John Watercolor / Painted by Steve Blye

Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 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 –

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. Judith Wang, Interim Pastor – pastor@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

Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 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 (LEADER AND PEOPLE)

Come to the mountain, not because you already understand, but because you want to see Jesus. Come to the mountain, not to get something no one else has, but because you want to see Jesus. Come to the mountain, not to stay forever in holy stasis, but because you want to see Jesus.

We come to see, to hear, and to follow.

*OPENING HYMN #182

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Words don't seem enough, Holy One. There's glory we can't describe, and a calling we can't explain. You are always just beyond our reach. Yet you call us to lay down everything and reach for your cross, that we may find abundant life. Empty our hands this day, that we may be ready to receive the fullness of your love and to face the future trusting you have more in mind. Amen.

*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

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Matthew 16.24-17.8

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?'

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Like a Shining Light – Roger Lentz

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

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

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

STOP TALKING AND LISTEN!

HYMN #204

"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

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

Be Thou My Vision – arr. David Paxton

*DOXOLOGY #781

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

We give thanks Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Build Your Kingdom

CCLI Song # 6186078 Chris Llewellyn | Gareth Gilkeson | William Herron © 2011 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 3266027

The Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer were written for the Narrative Lectionary by Rev. Teri Peterson.

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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

Hymns reproduced with permission under Christian Copyright Licensing International, license #3266027.

St. John UCC CCLI Copyright License 3266027 CCLI Streaming License 20171680

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE License #A-731362. All rights reserved.

Thank you to Rev. Paris Donehoo for preaching and leading worship at St. John through February 12! We appreciate Paris' willingness to fill in until the new interim pastor arrived.

This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Judy Grimes, Cindy Giambarberee & Dave Landeweer. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. FLOWERS: Wally & Kathie Schultz. COFFEE: Spiritual Life. SCRIPTURE READER: Owen Hong. CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: ALTAAR GUILD: Roberta Morand.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Holly Petersen & Dave Landeweer. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Landeweer. FLOWERS: COFFEE: Spiritual Life. SCRIPTURE READER: Rachel Martin CALLED TO CARE: SEXTON: ALTAAR GUILD: Roberta Morand.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Transfiguration Sunday** – Sunday, February 19 at 10:00 A.M.
- **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, February 19 at 11:00 A.M.
- **Bible Study** – Tuesday, February 21 at 10:00 A.M.
- **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 P.M.
- **Stewardship Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 P.M.
- **Ash Wednesday** – Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 P.M.
- **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, February 22 at 6:45 P.M.
- **PADS** – Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 P.M.
- **Girl Scouts Troop Meeting** – Thursday, February 23 at 4:00 P.M.

• **PADS** – Friday, February 24 at 7:00 P.M.

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: 2/19 - 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: Join us on the second Saturday of the month. Share some of your favorite dishes at our potluck dinner and then join in the fun as we work on a service project or play a few games, and catch up with friends. Everyone is welcome. Join us on March 11th, April 8th and May 13th at 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Book Club: Book Club will meet Monday, March 13th to discuss “4:50 from Paddington” by Agatha Christie. Book Club meets the second Monday of the month at 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

United Church of Christ Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal: The United Church of Christ is appealing for support for recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. Financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. **Please make your check payable to St John UCC and write "Earthquake Relief" in the memo. If you are giving online, choose "other" and enter "Earthquake"**

Bleach and ashes.

This week, we mark the beginning of the season of Lent on Wednesday, traditionally called Ash Wednesday. But before we get to Wednesday, we pause here on Sunday, and with the disciples climb the mountain where we see Jesus transfigured, his face and clothes dazzling, almost as if they've been bleached.

Bleach and ashes.

The ashes on Wednesday symbolize our mortality - they remind us that we come from God and to God we return. When the mark of ashes is placed on a forehead or hand, we are invited to step into Lent in a posture of repentance. But before we are reminded we are all human, we are reminded by Jesus that we are also all divine. Before we are invited into repentance, into a time of turning from sin, we are invited into a moment of grace so glorious it seems blinding.

Bleach and ashes.

It's no accident that we always acknowledge the Transfiguration, just days before we step into Lent. It's because we need both. We need the blinding light of the divine as much as we need to remember that we are ultimately made of the same dirt as the rest of creation. We are star stuff and we are earthy stuff and both are vital to our experience as humans.

Bleach and ashes.

As you begin the long Lenten journey this week, you are invited up the mountain to raise your arms in wonder to the Light. In a few days you will be invited to the valley as, with your bare hands, you scoop the dirt from the ground. Carry both the light and the dirt with you. You will need them both. Remember both.

Bleach and ashes.

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 started at St. John on February 13 and her first Sunday leading worship is this Sunday, February 19. We look forward to welcoming her!



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.