

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Luminarias along the path, 2007, Danae Hurst

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 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

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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

Exquisite and down to earth, luxurious and every day, rare and commonplace:
this Christ calls his followers to be.

Called to invade and infect the neighborhood, making a difference by living in light and inviting others to taste the goodness of God.

God invites us to flaunt God's marvelous creation

Until all are drawn to God's wonderful light.

*OPENING HYMN #18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have developed a stutter when it comes to being salt and light in your world, O Lord.

Our prayer is that we might covet the freedom to respond to your love for us with all our heart and soul and mind and strength.

Forgive us our caution,

Our self-consciousness,

Our fear of spontaneity,

The praises that get stuck on our stuttering tongues.

Make of us the glad and contagious followers you created us to be,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 #756

GLORIA

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

WELCOME & COMMUNITY LIFE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20 [NRSV]

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

CHANCEL CHOIR

I Will Feed My Flock — arr. Caleb Simper

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

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

SONG

We Give You Thanks

**We bless You Creator Provider we bless You
We bless You Redeemer oh Jesus we bless You
By the means of grace and the hope of glory**

**And Almighty God Father of mercies
We give You thanks
For all Your goodness for how You love us
We give You we give You thanks
(We give You thanks)**

**We praise You Creator Provider we praise You
We praise You Redeemer oh Jesus we praise You
By the means of grace and the hope of glory**

**All honor and glory forever
From now till the end of the age**

**Almighty God Father of mercies
We give You thanks
For all Your goodness for how You love us
We give You we give You
We give You we give You**

We give You we give You thanks

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SERMON

JOB DESCRIPTION

HYMN #497

Guide My Feet

COMMUNITY PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer — David Cherwien

*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 offer ourselves to you, O God, in these tokens of our lives. May they make a practical difference in this world, bringing light and life through Jesus Christ to the darkest and most shadowy places. Fill us with your Spirit, that our lives may also bear the light of him who gave himself for us, as we go about our daily living in your presence. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION PRAYER AND 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord Jesus Christ, as we have proclaimed your death by eating this bread and drinking this cup, help us to wait for you, to wish for you, and to watch for you, so that when you come again you will find us ready. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #573

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor — Johann Pachelbel

*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: 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.

Next 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.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** – Sunday, February 5 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, February 5 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, February 7 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, February 7 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Brownies Troop Meeting** – Wednesday, February 8 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, February 8 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Girl Scouts Troop Meeting** – Thursday, February 9 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Friday, February 10 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **St. John Social** – Saturday, February 11 at 5:00 P.M.
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Little Free Pantry Announcement: The Little Free Pantry continues to be well utilized. Gloves, hats, hand warmers, socks, 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: 2/5 – 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: **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.

February 5, 2023 / **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** / Matthew 5:13-20 / Restoring Beauty

“There are very few real emergencies. This doesn't mean truly terrible things don't happen. But if we can do things like breathe, delay gratification, feel our feelings in real time, keep ourselves from too much impulsivity, and reach for the right practice or people, we can survive—we can emerge-and-see—through disaster. And with spiritual hindsight, many of our disasters might turn out to be Holy Spirit portals: the way God gets in.

Life as it stands will keep trying to shake us up or smash our boat onto the rocks. This is not because God is a jerk. It's because Nature throws novel viruses and earthquakes and worse into our path. It's also because humans are inventive and wonderful, but then we dream up things that ruin lives, like crystal meth, hypercapitalism, and high-waisted jeans (not a good look for anyone).

If we think we are safe, we are wrong. Nothing can insulate us from loss. But safe was never the point. There are fates worse than death—like not ever really living.

If you are lucky, you are currently between emergencies. Maybe you've had a rare chance to get off the roller coaster entirely. Your legs have just stopped shaking, and you think, “I'm never doing that again.” You are sitting in the sun, eating something delicious and terrible for you: fried dough, a corn dog, a caramel apple that will pull out your crown. Enjoy the moment. It's not going to last.

And if you are in the middle of a fast-moving or slow-motion emergency—a sick toddler, a wayward teen, a relationship at a crossroads, a dance with addiction, a mental health crisis—only time will tell if it really was a

true emergency. Because with the right kind of attention, ruptures can reveal us, emerge us, and help us evolve faster than any virus.”

This is an excerpt from *How to Begin When Your World is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy Despite Everything* copyright © 2022 Molly Phinney Baskette admin. Broadleaf Books. Used by permission. All rights reserved. *How to Begin When Your World is Ending* is available at broadleafbooks.com or wherever you purchase your books.

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.