

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



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
March 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](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 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 –

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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](mailto:pastor@stjah.org)

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 of Lent

## March 19, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader and People)

It's time to share ...

**with those we know.**

It's time to share ...

**with those we may never know.**

It's time to share...

**when it seems easy, and when it seems a more difficult task.**

It's time to share! Let us not grow weary.

**For the time has come for us to share!**

\*OPENING HYMN #495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**God of abundant life, we come to worship this day from various walks of life and places of engagement, yet we are drawn together through the connection in this community of faith. We pray that during this time, we would be reminded yet again of the power of doing good and of changing the lives of others. It can be so easy to get caught up in our own lives that we forget the simple acts of kindness which can make a world of difference. We want to seize the day and not miss any opportunities.**

**Show us the paths where we might follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray...**

\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**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.**

\*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

**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 AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL TONES

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded - arr. by Arnold Sherman

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Matthew 25.31-46

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." 37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" 40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." 44 Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" 45 Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

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

WORSHIP BAND

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

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CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“Oh, I See”

HYMN #530 Stanzas 1 & 2 only

God Our Author and Creator

COMMUNITY PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Pastorale - J. S. Bach

\*DOXOLOGY

Text #778 Tune: TALLIS' CANON (#100)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION [All are welcome to partake.]

Invitation and Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

## \*CLOSING HYMN #537

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory - Michael Burkhardt

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Invocation were taken from the U.C.C. OGHS Resources.

Cover Art from OGHS Resources.

\*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: Dennis Roesslein, Holly Petersen & Judy Grimes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. FLOWERS: COFFEE: Christian Ed Committee.

SCRIPTURE READER: Jackson Travis. CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: Craig

Mallar. ALTAR GUILD: Janet Landeweer.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Dennis Roesslein & Judy Grimes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Cindy Giambarberee. FLOWERS: COFFEE: Council. SCRIPTURE READER:

Frank Styzek. CALLED TO CARE: SEXTON: Craig Mallar. ALTAR GUILD: Janet Landeweer.

## The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Fourth Sunday in Lent** – Sunday, March 19 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Lenten Soup Sunday** – Sunday, March 19 at 11:00 A.M.
  - **Confirmation Class** – Sunday, March 19 at 11:00 A.M.
  - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, March 21 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Bell Tones** – Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 P.M.
  - **Stewardship Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 A.M.
  - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, March 22 at 6:45 P.M.
  - **PADS** – Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 P.M.
  - **PADS** – Friday, March 24 at 7:00 P.M.
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**Lenten Soup Sundays:** The Spiritual Life Committee would like to provide an opportunity for fellowship during Lent so we will host **Lenten Soup Sundays**, a light soup & bread luncheon following worship on five Sundays following Ash Wednesday. Each Sunday's soups will be provided and hosted by a St. John committee through March 26, as follows: 3/19-Christian Ed; 3/26-Council. This will replace our Coffee Hour. *Spiritual Life encourages everyone to bring their own soup bowls to the Lenten Soup Sundays. It will help save money for St. John and it's a great way for us to help our planet. You can drop them off in Fellowship Hall prior to the service and then take them home*

*afterwards.* Additionally, a free-will offering will be collected that will go to earthquake aid through the UCC. Checks can be made out to St. John UCC and indicate Earthquake Aid on the memo line. If you wish to give online, choose the Other tab and then fill in Earthquake Aid.

**One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday is March 19<sup>th</sup>:** *So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all."* Galatians 6:9-10 [The Message] We cannot physically be in all the places that OGHS serves or even see all the results with our own eyes, but through your generous offerings and special gifts, you help promote the loving community that Paul advocates. OGHS is YOUR reach into the world; working in partnership with people we will never meet, yet to whom we are connected. Your contributions are transforming lives for generations to come and are part of the harvest into which Paul invites us. Your gifts bring the Reign/Kingdom of God closer to us all. We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference in the world.

**St. John Pictorial Directory:** The Spiritual Life Committee needs your help! We are going to create a pictorial directory of our St. John family and friends--not a book, but a wall full of pictures of each of you & your families. We will be collecting 4 x 6-inch photos of St. John families and friends, so start looking for your favorite or we will schedule dates to take a photo if you do not have one. We will provide more information next week. In the meantime, start hunting up that favorite photo of your family, be it in your house, yard, on a mountain top or some other place that is special to you. More info will be coming soon.

**Christian Education Volunteer Opportunity:** The Christian Ed committee is looking for 1 or 2 volunteers each week to help with Sunday school as numbers have been unpredictable. You will always be with at least one CE member and won't need to plan a lesson or lead, just be available to help with the younger children. Thank you in advance.

**Little Free Pantry Announcement:** Gloves, hats, hand warmers, socks, toothbrushes/toothpaste & laundry detergent are needed. 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 needed: 3/19-Peanut butter, 16 oz.-28 oz. max.; 3/26-White rice, 1-2 lb. bags/boxes (or Rice-a-Roni, if plain white is not available). 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. The group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom. Tom & 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:** What a great gathering! We enjoyed being with old & new friends and sharing delicious food. Join us **April 15** for our Not Dinner Dinner! Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share! Everyone is welcome. Mark your calendars and join us Saturday, April 15 and May 20 at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall.

**Book Club:** St. John book club will meet Monday, April 10 at 2 pm to discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Book club meets the second Monday of the month at 2 pm. 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".

March 19, 2023 /**Fourth Sunday in Lent** /John 9:1-41 /Restored /*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*

For many churches, generations of givers have placed their tithe to the church in a basket or plate that is passed during worship. Usually taking place toward the end of the worship service, the receiving of the offering in this way was both practical and also symbolic of the gifts that each congregation member has to offer. In the past couple of years, spurred by pandemic changes, many congregations have made a shift from receiving the offering in person to receiving it online or virtually. This shift in giving is the tip of the iceberg, a symbol of all the changes that have visited all churches in these unprecedented times.

In today's story, Jesus' healing of a man blind from birth is met with skepticism and uncertainty by those who have known the man. They are not prepared for this change and may feel ill equipped to handle it. Like the townspeople, you may feel unready for change. And yet, you have been living with and adapting through change as it happens both without and within.

In your lifetime, there has been nearly unfathomable change in the world. Borders have opened and closed, names of countries have changed, allies have banded together to make war on other nations, and then turned on one another, and the English language has added hundreds of new words to the dictionary. (Before 2020, had you ever heard or used the word "superspreader" before?)

And that doesn't even count the individual changes that you have adapted to in your lifetime. You have weathered and even thrived through changes in self-understanding, knowledge, relationships, emotional landscape, climate, education, fortune, health, travels, travails, employment status, living arrangements, and multiple television remotes with their array of mysterious black on black buttons.

You may push back against change or wish it would not come so fast, but in fact your whole life has been preparing you for the changes we are experiencing now. Whether your giving is the "old" way in a passed plate, or a "new" way through a computer terminal, you have everything you need to weather the changes around you.

*One Great Hour of Sharing*® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>



[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.