

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Second Sunday of Lent
March 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 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/stjohnucc

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

Second Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader and People)

Come in, come in, there's room for us all.

Lifelong members and first-time visitors, we come.

Wherever you have been, and whatever you've been doing, come.

We come, some who have a lifetime of service and some who are eager to begin.

Come in to God's kingdom where there is enough for everyone.

First and last, last and first, we come.

*OPENING HYMN #332

As We Gather at Your Table

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you are endlessly generous, giving to all according to your love.

We confess that we are envious of your generosity because we want you to follow our understanding of what is fair even if it clashes with your vision of what is right, and so we begrudge others the daily bread we think they did not earn.

We confess that we see people in terms of what they can contribute, or what value their work has to us, rather than seeing them as made in your image and beloved, our equals. And we admit that we worry that new people and new ideas will eclipse the hard work we have done for years, leaving us behind, and so in our fear we disparage the newcomers as unworthy, insisting our traditions should have pride of place.

Forgive us, O God, and let your forgiveness turn us around, change our hearts and minds, to recognize the gifts of those who join us in your work, and to see that the presence of different gifts doesn't mean ours have been in vain.

Your love extends to all — may your forgiveness make us as generous as you are. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Believe the Good news of the Gospel: In Christ your sins are forgiven. Be at peace.

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

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Matthew 20.1-16

20'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

CHANCEL CHOIR

Hallelujah, Praise the Lord - Robert Kay

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

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

WORSHIP BAND

Beauty for Ashes

God of the new beginnings
God of the second chance
Your grace an endless river
Your love an avalanche
There in my darkest moment
All hope burnt to the ground
That's where Your mercy found me
That's when Your love came down
You turned my mourning into dancing
You turned my sorrow into praise

You give me beauty for ashes beauty for ashes
You give me beauty for ashes beauty for ashes

Love met me in the ruins
Of all my past mistakes
Love walked me to the river
Love broke apart these chains
Love spoke a new tomorrow
Opened my eyes to see
Love washed away this sadness
Love came and rescued me

Oh I thank You God
I'm overwhelmed by Your incredible love
You make ev'rything new
Oh I thank You God
For all You've done and yet to do
Oh You make ev'rything new

CCLI Song # 7040551 Brenton Brown | Chris McClarney © 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

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“What’s Right?”

HYMN #532

Come, Labor On

COMMUNITY PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me - arr. Victor Labenske

*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

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (**Unison**)

**We give thanks O God, that you have refreshed us with these gifts
of your grace. May we be strengthened to go forth in faith to share
your love and grace generously with all. In the name of Jesus we pray,
Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christians, We Have Met to Worship - arr. Mark Hayes

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession 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.

This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Barbara Blye, Holly Peterson & Dennis Roesslein.
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. FLOWERS: COFFEE: Cooper Family for Cicely's Birthday & Hanna's Adoption Day. SCRIPTURE READER: Sharon Porter. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye.
SEXTON: Craig Mallar. ALTAR GUILD: Janet Landeweer.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Cindy Giambarberee & Dave Landeweer.
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judy Grimes. FLOWERS: COFFEE: Pam Ahrendt in Honor of Kalani Polk's Birthday. SCRIPTURE READER: Gus Tashima. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Craig Mallar. ALTAR GUILD: Janet Landeweer.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Second Sunday in Lent / Anniversary Sunday** – Sunday, March 5 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Lenten Soup Sunday** – Sunday, March 5 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Tones** – Tuesday, March 7 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Spiritual Life Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 A.M.
 - **Brownies Troop Meeting** – Wednesday, March 8 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, March 8 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Girl Scouts Troop Meeting** – Thursday, March 9 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **PADS** – Friday, March 10 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **St. John Social** – Saturday, March 11 at 5:00 P.M.
 - **JuBellation Rehearsal** – Sunday, March 12 from 9:15-9:55 A.M.
-

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 luncheon following worship on five Sundays following Ash Wednesday. Each Sunday's soups will be provided and hosted by one of our St. John committees through March 26, as follows: 3/5- Stewardship; 3/12-Music Committee; 3/19-Christian Ed; 3/26-Council
This will replace our Coffee Hour. Please join us for a light soup & bread lunch following worship during Lent. *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.*

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.

Congregational United Church of Christ Lenten Series: Pastor Steve Welker of the Congregational UCC 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 2 separate times during the Wednesdays of Lent: 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 and 4/5 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 UCC (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! (pharrisbi@hotmail.com)

Christian Education Volunteer Opportunity: The Christian Education committee is looking for one or two 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: The Little Free Pantry continues to be well utilized. 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 most needed: 3/5 - Canned fruits; 3/12 - Canned meals like SpaghettiOs or ravioli; 3/19 - Peanut butter, 16 oz. to 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. 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 your favorite dishes at our potluck dinner and 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 3/11, 4/8 & 5/13 at 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Book Club: Book Club will meet Monday, March 13 to discuss “4:50 from Paddington” by Agatha Christie. Book Club meets the second Monday of the month at 2:00 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 5, 2023 / **Second Sunday in Lent** / John 3:1-17 / Bold Blessing
UCC Women’s Week, March 5-11

Today we meet Nicodemus, a leader and teacher of the law. As a leader and teacher, Nicodemus is the one who other people come to for answers. If a conundrum is too complicated for the average person to unravel, Nicodemus knows what to think.

But although he is the teacher, Nicodemus knows he is not done learning yet. Whatever discomfort or even danger compels him to visit Jesus in the dead of night, his questions are even stronger than his fear. Because of his practice of learning and teaching in the temple, Nicodemus knows that the very best way to learn is in communities of other learners. He does not try to answer the unanswerable questions by himself. He is an example and a model of what it means to be a lifelong learner.

Like Nicodemus, participants in the United Church of Christ’s Nollau Leadership Institute are life-long learners, ready to take the risks associated with seeking community to answer life’s biggest questions. According to their website, the institute “is designed to cultivate today’s leaders who are committed to creating a just, caring, and compassionate world. It is a program that acknowledges the many ways this hoped-for world is alive in each one of us, and how it comes into fuller expression when we journey together...Through in-person retreats, online interactions, and peer mentoring, Nollau provides leadership formation through a variety of learning modalities and within a community of practice. Small group work, journaling, art, embodiment, and spiritual practices are all part of the program alongside the interactive didactic sessions. The program culminates with a capstone project and consecration as a Diakonal Minister at the CHHSM Annual Gathering.

If you are interested in examining what it means to be a leader by exploring what it means to be human, to be in relationship, and to be part of something larger than yourself, CHHSM welcomes you to apply to this transformative year-long program: <https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.

“Nollau Institute.” CHHSM, 25 Feb. 2022, <https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.



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.



Easter Flowers

We are taking flower orders for our Easter Altar.

This is a beautiful way to remember your loved ones this Easter. We will be ordering an assortment of daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and Easter lily's all in 6-inch pots. **The cost is \$8 per daffodil, hyacinth or tulip plant and the cost per Easter lily is \$11.25.** Please make your checks payable to St. John UCC.

Please fill out this order form and return it to the church office **by Wednesday, March 29.**

I wish to purchase (please indicate quantity):

___ # of daffodil, hyacinth or tulip plants @ \$8 each = \$___

___ # of Easter lily plants @ \$11.25 each = \$___

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____.

FROM _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Envelope Number _____