

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



St. John Watercolor / Painted by Steve Blye

**Second Sunday of Easter**  
April 16, 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.***

**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

*April 16, 2023*

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader and **People**)

Jesus calls us to come and meet him, however many or few we are at the moment,  
**however ready, or unready, we feel.**

Jesus calls us to go out and live his Way, telling the others that another life  
is possible,

**showing the world God's kingdom is here.**

Jesus promises to be with us always,

**present in our work and worship, empowering us to pursue his purpose.**

Let us worship the God of new life!

\*OPENING HYMN #238

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

\*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Meet us here today, Lord Jesus Christ, and reveal yourself to us.**

**We have come to worship, trusting your promise even as we  
hesitate to act on it.**

**As we offer ourselves today, bless us with faith that serves,  
not only speaks.**

**God with us, teach us once again, that we may hear your word  
and walk in your way, inviting others to do the same.**

**We pray in Jesus' name....**

\*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 #236

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**  
**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**  
**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**  
**Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

MUSICAL OFFERING Bell Tones

*Because He Lives* – Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski (ASCAP)

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Matthew 28.16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

MUSICAL OFFERING Worship Band

Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

One day when heaven was filled with His praises  
One day when sin was as black as could be  
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin  
Dwelt among men my example is He  
The Word became flesh  
And the light shined among us  
His glory revealed

Living He loved me dying He saved me  
Buried He carried my sins far away  
Rising He justified freely forever  
One day He's coming  
O glorious day (glorious day)

One day they led Him up Calv'ry's mountain  
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree  
Suffering anguish despised and rejected  
Bearing our sins my Redeemer is He

The hand that healed nations  
Stretched out on a tree  
And took the nails for me

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer  
One day the stone rolled away from the door  
Then He arose over death He had conquered  
Now is ascended my Lord evermore  
Death could not hold Him  
The grave could not keep Him  
From rising again

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming  
One day the skies with His glories will shine  
Wonderful day my beloved one bringing  
My Savior Jesus is mine

O glorious day glorious day  
O glorious day

CCLI Song # 5638022 John Wilbur Chapman | Mark Hall | Michael Bleecker © 2009 Curb Songs (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing) Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) My Refuge Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 3266027

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“Still Going”

HYMN #531

“God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

What Wondrous Love Is This – arr. Craig Curry

\*DOXOLOGY

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (#17)

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Praise God the source of all our gifts  
Praise Jesus Christ Whose power uplifts  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia**

CCLI Song # 5100718 Gilbert H. Vieira | Jeff Lowery | Thomas Ken © Words: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Music: 2007 Lowery, Jeff CCLI License # 326602

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #241

“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Risen! – arr. Ruth E. Schram

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

\*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: Dennie Roesslein & Judy Grimes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. FLOWERS: Frank & Linda Styzek to Celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. COFFEE: Barbara Jo Scott, Kathy Winters & Michelle Johns. SCRIPTURE READER: Corrie Roesslein. CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: Bob Burdick. ALTAR GUILD: Roberta Morand & Georgia Runge.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Cindy Giambarberee & Dave Landeweer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Landeweer. FLOWERS:. COFFEE:. SCRIPTURE READER: Julie Kurka. CALLED TO CARE:. SEXTON: Bob Burdick. ALTAR GUILD: Roberta Morand & Georgia Runge.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Memorial Service** – Saturday, April 15 at 12:00 P.M.
  - **St. John Social** – Saturday, April 15 at 5:00 P.M.
  - **Second Sunday of Easter Worship** – Sunday, April 16 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, April 16 at 11:00 A.M.
  - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, April 18 at 10:00 A.M.
  - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00 P.M.
  - **Stewardship Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 P.M.
  - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, April 19 at 6:45 P.M.
  - **PADS** – Wednesday, April 19 at 7:00 P.M.
  - **Cards** – Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 P.M.
  - **PADS** – Friday, April 21 at 7:00 P.M.
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**Buffalo Grove Pride Parade:** St. John UCC has had a presence at the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade every year since its inception in 2019. If you're interested in leading the St. John team for 2023, please reach out to the office to let them know. Contact Jenn Borrell (jborrell@hotmail.com) if you'd like to know more about what this would involve. The parade is on Sunday, June 4 at 11am.

**PADS Update:** It is April, the final month of our PADS season for 2022-23. We would like to take the time to celebrate and show our gratitude for all that you have done to make this first PADS season a success. On Sunday, April 16th, our PADS team will be hosting coffee hour after worship. We would like to share our gratitude for the congregation's ongoing support of our PADS program. By opening our church every Wednesday and Friday since October 2022, we were able to provide food, shelter, and companionship for our guests. Please join us for refreshments and the opportunity to reflect on a great PADS season! We hope that you will also mark your calendar for a PADS Thank-you Dinner on Wednesday, May 10th, at 6:00 pm at St John UCC. Everyone is invited!!! Please RSVP for the dinner

at the Evite link - <http://evite.me/KNB94EapeD> or to a PADS team member. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, May 10th! Thank you! The St. John PADS team

**Prayer Concerns & Joys:** Beginning in April, the Spiritual Life Committee is implementing a new process for receiving prayer concerns and joys. With respect to privacy, since our service is recorded and available online, we will no longer be lifting up specific names during worship. Instead, prayer request forms will be available at the back of the sanctuary. Please use these to request prayers and celebrate joys. You may place these forms in the offering plates, or in the box provided in the narthex. They will be collected by the pastor, and a prayer list will be emailed to members/friends on Monday each week. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we try this new process.

**Not Your Average Church Directory:** Need your photo taken for the Pictorial Directory that will be on the wall in the fellowship area that used to be the library??? The Spiritual Life Committee will be taking photos after worship on Sundays, April 23 and 30. Whether your family is one or many, we will be taking photos for the new Photo Directory! If you have a photo you like, deposit it (on photo paper) in the burgundy box near where we will hang the photos. Be sure to label the photo on the back or on an envelope it is placed in with first and last names, from left to right. All photos must be 4 x6". So, don your favorite outfit and come have your photo taken!

**Little Free Pantry Announcement:** With the weather warming there will be need for athletic socks, sunscreen, deodorant and soap/body wipes for the Little Free Pantry. With PADS at two area sites through the winter, more people in need are likely to have noted the Little Free Pantry, so need remains strong. Sign up to help for a 2-week commitment at <https://tinyurl.com/2uzc4tdf>. Contact Jay Virchow or Jenn Borrell with questions.

**Food Pantry Focus:** The Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry is thankful for our weekly donations. The following items are needed: 4/16-Canned fruit; 4/23-Canned meals (SpaghettiOs, ravioli, etc.); 4/30-Peanut butter; 5/7-White Rice, 1-2 lb. bags or boxes; 5/14-Canned soup. 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:** 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!

Tuesday, April 18 is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. On a recent Yom HaShoah, Rev. Sigrid Rother of Westerville Community United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio was invited by a rabbi at a local reform synagogue to speak at a Holocaust Remembrance Day service for the local Jewish community.

“I was probably the only Christian in the room. It was kind of an odd feeling,” pastor Rother remembers. But she took a breath and told her story. Rother was born and grew up in a Germany imbued with a common guilt over the atrocities of the Holocaust. Her sense of responsibility was personal as well as national. Her own father, just ten years old when Adolph Hitler came to power, had been part of the Hitler Youth and then later a Nazi pilot. Growing up in a small and impoverished Polish village, Rother believes her father’s Nazi involvement had provided an outlet for activities like camping and sports that were not offered elsewhere. “I say this,” Rother explains, “not justifying, just trying to understand. I don’t want to make him into a victim.” In the post-war years, her father worked as a miner and became a difficult alcoholic. Rother’s mother’s family was less enthusiastic about the Nazi party, but were coerced in joining the party, even though they did not agree with its policies.

All of this was in the background, but rarely mentioned in her childhood. Rother got a call to ministry while still in Germany but felt constrained by the limits of the state church there. She studied in South Africa when apartheid was being dismantled, and that experience along with her childhood gave her a strong sense of justice. “When Black Lives Matter happened, I could not but stand up, because it is so ingrained in me,” she says.

As she told this story to the group at the Remembrance Day service, Rother admits, “I was so nervous! Who do I think I am? Here are people who lost family members. Seeing survivors, with tattoos on their arms... there were tears in my eyes.” But at the end of the event, the only response was an outpouring of love and gratitude.

It took courage for Sigrid Rother to break generational silence and admit her family’s complicity in her nation’s violent past. The first steps were nerve-wracking, but the path she walked led to greater understanding and healing. May her story inform us as we take the journey toward reconciliation and the creation of the Reign of God.



[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.