

St. John United Church of Christ

Arlington Heights, Illinois



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 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.

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/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

May 7, 2023

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

In singing and praying,

give glory to God!

In proclaiming truth,

give glory to God!

In turning over systems of injustice,

give glory to God!

In moments of joy and moments of annoyance,

give glory to God!

In times of success and times of trial,

give glory to God!

In public streets and at home with family,

give glory to God!

*OPENING HYMN #349

“I Come With Joy”

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

You plant a song in our hearts, O God,

and call us to sing even when we cannot see.

**In the midst of all this world holds, we pray for the harmony
of spirit that sets us all free.**

Give us the joy that allows us to proclaim your good news.

Give us the attentiveness that allows us to share compassion with all.

Give us the courage to thoughtfully overturn the powers that imprison.

**May the melody of hope run through all we say and do,
that our worship and living may be for you.**

We pray in the name of the risen Christ...

*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 – Worship Band

King of Kings

CCLI Song # 7127647 Brooke Ligertwood | Jason Ingram | Scott Ligertwood © 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 3266027

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Acts 16.16-34

16 One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be

saved?’ ³¹They answered, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

MUSICAL OFFERING – Chancel Choir

Broken for You – Parker & Lantz

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“On the Road Again”

HYMN #582

“O God of Earth and Altar”

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Pastorale – Richard Elliott

*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

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 #347

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Let All Things Now Living – Dale Wood

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:** Barbara Blye, Cindy Giambarberee & Dennis Roesslein. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Barbara Blye. **FLOWERS:** COFFEE: Lisa Zwilling. **SCRIPTURE READER:** Penny Donehoo. **CALLED TO CARE:** Barbara Blye. **SEXTON:** Frank Styzek. **ALTAR GUILD:** Molly Tashima.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: **GREETERS:** Judy Grimes & Holly Petersen. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Dennis Roesslein. **FLOWERS:** In Honor of My Mother, Patricia Bolin (Patty Callahan). **COFFEE:** Dave & Janet Landeweer. **SCRIPTURE READER:** Aiden Temple. **CALLED TO CARE:** Holly Endicott. **SEXTON:** Frank Styzek. **ALTAR GUILD:** Molly Tashima.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship** – Sunday, May 7 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, May 7 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Book Club** – Monday, May 8 at 1:00 P.M.
 - **Confirmation Class** – Monday, May 8 at 5:00 P.M.
 - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, May 9 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Tones Rehearsal** – Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Council Meeting** – Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Brownies Troop Meeting** – Wednesday, May 10 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **PADS Thank You Dinner** – Wednesday, May 10 at 5:00 P.M.
 - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, May 10 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **Girl Scouts Troop Meeting** – Thursday, May 11 at 4:00 P.M.
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Guns, Gun-Control and the Second Amendment: Firearms are a major cause of unnatural deaths in the United States. In 2021 alone, 26,328 Americans took their own lives with a gun. Another 21,009 died from accidents or willful violence using a firearm. There were 647 mass shootings in 2022, and there have already been 160 as of April 17, 2023. Meanwhile Congress and many state legislatures have not only failed to pass reasonable gun control laws, but in many cases have dismantled those that exist.

How did this crisis arise? Has the second amendment “right to bear arms” always been unconditional? How should people of faith respond to the epidemic of gun violence? Join Tom Mockaitis for a presentation and discussion of the gun rights/gun controversy. The adult education session will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, May 31 from 7-8:30 p.m.

TABLE TALKS: We are beginning a series of guided conversations, seeking your answer to questions that will provide input for our church profile when the Search Committee (yet to be formed) begins its work. Please plan to attend one of the following sessions! Sessions are one hour long.

Sunday, May 21	11:15 am	Tuesday, May 23	9:00 am
Sunday, June 11	11:15 am	Wednesday, June 21	6:30 pm

Pentecost: The Spiritual Life Committee hopes to turn the sanctuary red for Pentecost on 5/28 with 100 red geraniums! You may purchase FIVE 4" pots of geraniums, locally grown at Peche's, for \$25. There is an insert in the bulletin today. Please complete and turn it in today with your check. Quantities are limited. Orders are due today with payment. We encourage everyone to wear red on May 28!

Buffalo Grove Pride Parade: St. John UCC has had a presence at the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade every year since its inception in 2019. Jane Allen will be leading the St. John team for 2023. Please contact Jane at (847) 542-6228 or Jane.Cameron.allen@gmail.com to let her know that you would like to walk in the parade. The parade is on Sunday, June 4 at 11am.

PADS Update: We would like to celebrate & show our gratitude for all that you have done to make this first PADS season a success. Mark your calendar for a PADS Thank-you Dinner on Wednesday, 5/10, at 6pm at St. John. Everyone is invited! 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! St. John PADS team

Prayer Concerns & Joys: The Spiritual Life Committee has implemented 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: If you have a photo for the church directory, deposit it (on photo paper) in the burgundy box near where we will hang the photos. Label the photo on the back or on an envelope it is placed in with first and last names, from left to right. Photos must be 4"x6". Thank you!

Little Free Pantry: There is a need for athletic socks, sunscreen, deodorant and soap/body wipes for the Little Free Pantry. 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: 5/7-White Rice, 1-2 lb. bags or boxes; 5/14-Canned soup; 5/21-Canned chicken and tuna; 5/28-Canned fruit. 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 7-8 pm via Zoom. Tom & Martha Mockaitis lead the discussions. All are welcome! Please let Martha or Tom know if you would like to join.

St. John Social: Mark your calendars to join us on Saturday, May 20 for our BBQ Potluck. Share your favorite dish to bring to a neighborhood BBQ. Then on June 10th it's Breakfast for Dinner! We meet at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Book Club: Book club meets the second Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome!

May 7, 2023 / **Fifth Sunday of Easter** / John 14:1-14 / Enduring Witness

A communion liturgy based on John 14, NRSV.

Leader: Jesus said, "Believe in God, believe also in me."

People: And the people said, "How can we know The Way?"

Leader: And Jesus said, "I am the Way. And the truth. And the light."

People: And the people said, "Show us, and we will be satisfied."

Leader: And Jesus said, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. And so since you have asked, today I will show you one of the ways that I will always be here with you."

People: And so Jesus took the bread, and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "I am the Way and the truth and the life."

Leader: If you know me, you will know my Abba God also. And I will show you, so you remember. Take this bread. This bread is just like my body, whenever you eat it and remember all that unites you, I am with you."

People: And after supper, Jesus took the cup and poured it out sharing it with them. And again he told them. "I am the Way and the truth and the life."

Leader: Then he said "In my Abba's house there are many rooms. And I will show you, so you remember. This is the cup of forgiveness, which is as vast as my Abba's house in heaven. This cup is grace, poured out abundantly on all and for all."

People: Then Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, so that where I am, there you will be also."

Leader: This is Christ's table and all are welcome here. Come from the East and the West, from the North and the South to gather at this feast for forgiveness and unity.



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.

HELP SUPPORT OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

Sleeping Bag Drive

DONATE A NEW OR LIKE-NEW SLEEPING BAGS
AT ONE OF THE LOCATIONS BELOW!



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**When there's a change in the living situation for our homeless community
and they need our help, what do we do?**

WE STEP UP and LEND A HAND!

Effective May 1, over 100 individuals that were provided shelter through government funding in local hotels throughout the pandemic will no longer benefit from this program due to exhausted funding and may find themselves living outdoors.

St. John UCC - Arlington Heights and People Helping People - Palatine are joining together and hosting a SLEEPING BAG DRIVE in order to collect new/gently used sleeping bags for distribution through Journey's HOPE Center to our homeless neighbors.

Drop Off Sites

St. John UCC
308 N. Evergreen Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL
Monday thru Friday ~ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Gaza Family Home
316 S. Dwyer Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL
Porch Delivery - Anytime

People Helping People-Palatine
846 E. Marshall Court, Palatine
Porch Delivery - Anytime

Winters Family Home
546 E. Delgado Drive
Palatine, IL
Porch Delivery - Anytime

Accepting donations thru May 30

Use our QR Code or
Amazon Wish List Link
for EASY Shopping!



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