**St. John United Church of Christ**

***“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”***

November 1, 2020 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Karla J. Frost Organist: Ritch Alexander 9:30 Worship (618) 877-6060

2901 Nameoki Rd. Granite City, IL 62040

E-[stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com) Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

**To follow safety guidelines**

**please keep social distance and do not sing.**

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

“The Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses.” (Joshua 3:7)

PRELUDE *Let All Things Now Living* Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER From Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

***My soul makes its boast in the Lord;***

***let the humble hear and be glad.***

O magnify the Lord with me,

and let us exalt his name together.

***I sought the Lord, and he answered me,***

***and delivered me from all my fears.***

O taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are those who take refuge in him.

***O fear the Lord, his holy ones,***

***for those who fear him have no want***

Let us pray:

***O Lord, with the psalmist we fear, or stand in awe, of your presence in every age. All that is good comes***

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***from you, and you redeem the life of your servants. No one who takes refuge in you will fall. We praise and thank you as we worship with joy, trusting that nothing can separate us from your love. Amen.***

HYMN ***“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”***

***A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;***

***our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.***

***For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;***

***his craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,***

***on earth is not his equal.***

***Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.***

***Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;***

***Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,***

***and he must win the battle.***

***And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,***

***we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.***

***The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;***

***his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;***

***one little word shall fell him.***

***That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth,***

***the Spirit and the gifts are ours thro’ him who with us sideth.***

***Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;***

***the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still;***

***his kingdom is forever.***

LITANY OF CONFESSION From 1 John 3 & 4, Matt. 5:1-12, & Matt. 23:12

As children of God, we believe that God is Love. Yet we are not perfect in our love for others. We sin against God when we do not love as God loves. But we do have hope, and we can change. Let us repent of our unloving ways, as we confess our sins before God and one another.

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***We see the love you have given us, O God, and confess that we often desire to keep it only for ourselves.***

***Forgive us when we do not care for the poor in spirit and those who mourn, when we bully the meek and laugh at righteous living, when we do not show mercy and purity, when we attack the peacemakers and condemn the persecuted, when we do not speak truth in your name. Change us, O God, and remain with us, as we respond to your love and mercy by giving it to others. Amen.***

Hear the words of Jesus. “All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

***We have humbled ourselves in honest confession.***

As we sincerely change our ways and live out the love and mercy of God, we are made whole again.

***Thanks be to God, and Amen.***

EPISTLE READING 1 John 3:1-3; 4:7-8

SOLO  *Simple Gifts* Proulx

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:1-12

MEDITATION

PASTORAL, LORD’S PRAYER, AND RESPONSE

***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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING

***With humble hearts we give our gifts, O God, offering***

***them for compassionate service and prophetic mission. In the***

***example of the saints before us, we also offer ourselves, and***

***promise to declare your love with joy. There is no limit to***

***the good we can do, inspired by your Spirit, and dedicated to***

***discipleship, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

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INVITATION TO COMMUNE, AS INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Lyrics reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

As we gather at your table,

as we listen to your word,

help us know, O God, your presence;

let our hearts and minds be stirred.

Nourish us with sacred story

till we claim it as our own;

teach us through this holy banquet

how to make Love’s victory known.

***Gracious Spirit, help us summon***

***other guests to share that feast***

***where triumphant Love will welcome***

***those who had been last and least.***

***There no more will envy bind us***

***nor will pride our peace destroy,***

***we join with saints and angels***

***to repeat the sounding joy.***

COMMUNION PRAYER

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS (Please open when instructed)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***With overflowing hearts, we offer our thanks to you, O God. Your steadfast love endures from generation to generation. Renewed and inspired by this Sacrament, may we seek the welfare of others so all may join the celebration of the saints, now and forever. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”***

Words: Norman O. Forness. © 1978 Norman O. Forness. Lyrics reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;***

***Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.***

***Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulf’s earth’s frame;***

***as heirs of God’s baptismal grace, his work of hope proclaim.***

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***Rise up, O saints of God! His kingdom’s task embrace;***

***redress sin’s cruel consequence; give justice larger place.***

***Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;***

***stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.***

***Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;***

***and quickened by the Spirit’s power, rise up, O saints of God!***

BENNEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Song of Triumph* Rogers

**Please remain seated until an usher dismisses each pew beginning from the back of the Sanctuary.**

Welcome to worship on All Saints’ Day! Today we saints on earth join with the saints in heaven to praise God.

The rose on the altar is placed in celebration of the birth of **Colten Patrick Goedeke**, born Monday, October 26, at 9:26 a.m.,

9 lbs. 2 oz., 22" long, to Jan and Jonathan Goedeke and baby brother to Carter.  Grandparents are Tom and Sue Goedeke and great grandfather is Mitch Elmore.

The bulletins are given in loving memory of **Myrna Bischoff Rich** by Herb & Jeanie Bischoff and family.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please call Sharon O’Toole at 314-420-1548. To give bulletins, please call the church office at 877-6060. Available dates are Nov. 15 and Nov. 29.

Our **November Mission of the Month** is support for the vital programs at **Community Care**. Please clearly designate monetary gifts so that the counters can properly credit them. And, please bring non-perishable food items to the church if possible. Call ahead during the week to have one of us meet you at the elevator entrance for drop-offs. Thanks for caring about those most in need of care in our community.

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It is nearly time for our **annual congregational meeting**. Council is working on details for this, but we will have both ZOOM and in-church options at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 15. Booklets will be available for pick-up starting Sunday, November 8. If you have questions about the financial reports, please contact Connie Ahlers (618-910-8962) before the meeting, so that answers can be prepared. We will celebrate our year of

faithful discipleship, and anticipate continued faithful church work, no matter what the challenges may be.

The **scrip program** will be resumed with a shortened season. Orders will be accepted before and after worship services on November 1st and 15th, December 6th and 13th.  Order forms will be on the table in the narthex or just list the cards you are purchasing and give your list to Betty Meszaros.  Please include your check payable to St. John UCC with your order.

If you are uncomfortable attending in-person service or you are unable to leave your home, you can mail your order and check to the church, or call Betty at 618-451-1968. Arrangements will be made for delivery of gift cards.

Your cost is the face value of the card. Vendors offer $10, $25 or $50 denominations.  Rebates are sent automatically to the church and percentages vary by vendor. Stock up on cards for your personal use or get prepared for Christmas gift giving.  Please call Betty to check vendor availability, rebate percentages or with any other questions. Thank you for your support of this fundraising project for our church’s general fund.

**THIS WEEK**

Did you remember to move your clocks back one hour last night?

Today Outdoor Worship, near flagpole, 1:00 p.m.

Monday Al-Anon, Youth Side, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday Voting all day in Fellowship Hall

Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study on Zoom, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday Cemetery Committee at Maryville Site, 5:00 p.m.

Next Sunday Veterans’ Day observed

Annual Meeting Booklets distributed

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**Harvest Home and Totenfest** will be celebrated on Christ the King Sunday, November 22. Totenfest is our remembrance of loved ones who died during the past liturgical year. We will toll the bell and honor their lives, as we give thanks for God’s blessings and the presence of the risen Christ throughout the earth.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**I John 3:1-3, 4:7-8**

**3 1**See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2**Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. **3**And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure…..

**7**Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8**Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

**Matthew 5:1-12**

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

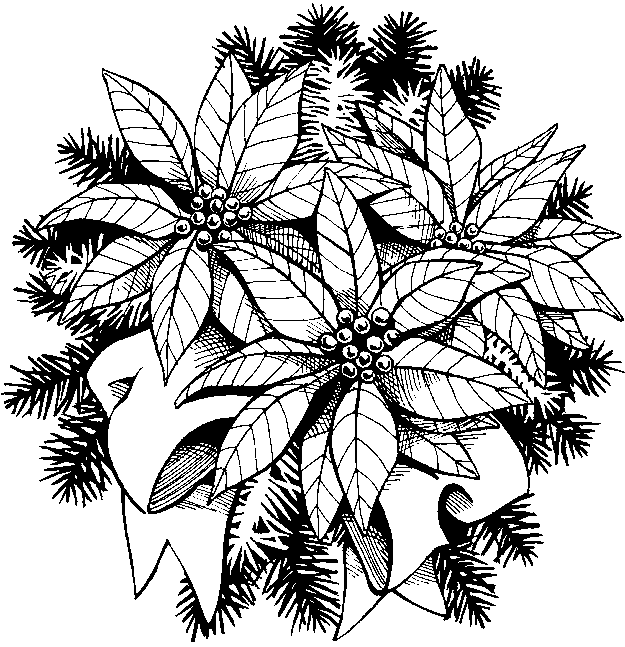
9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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**POINSETTIA**



**ORDER FORM**

Plants will cost **$11.00** each and are **available in RED ONLY.**  Fill in the lines below exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or Miss, etc.) DEADLINE to order poinsettias is **November 30, 2020** (Please attach payments to this form and either place in the offering plate or bring/mail to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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OR

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BY

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TELEPHONE NUMBER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED

TOTAL ENCLOSED

(Make checks payable to: St. John United Church of Christ)