**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

January 17, 2021 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Worship (618) 877-6060

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli…Then the Lord called, “Samuel Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!”…As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him…”

(1 Samuel 3:1, 4, 19)

PRELUDE *Lovable Melody* Inspired by Philippians 4:8 & Ephesians 5:19

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Prayer adapted from Psalm 139

The psalmist declared to God:

***“I come to the end—I am still with you.***

In all our days, we continue to declare:

***“I am still with you, O God.”***

In our most difficult times, we declare:

 ***“I am still with you, O God.”***

In answer to the Lord’s call, we declare:

 ***“I am with you, O Lord.”***

Therefore, we worship the One who is with us,

***The One we rejoice to be with forever.***

Let us pray together.

***“O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path***

-2-

***and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.”***

***O Lord, you are present with us, and receive our worship and praise. May what you find in us be pleasing. May that which is not pleasing, be changed***

***and forgiven. Grant us your Spirit to hear and respond to your call, and to be faithful disciples, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Search Me, O God”***

***Search me, O God, and know my heart today;***

***try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.***

***See if there be some wicked way in me;***

***cleanse me from every sin and set me free.***

***I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;***

***fulfill thy Word and make me pure within.***

***Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;***

***grant my desire to magnify thy name.***

***Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;***

***fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.***

***Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;***

***I now surrender, Lord—in me abide.***

RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Flames of the Spirit*, ed. Ruth C. Duck. Copyright © 1985 The Pilgrim Press

 Isaiah said:

“It shall come to pass that the peoples shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

 ***This is our vision:***

***That a world of harmony and peace will replace our world of injustice and war.***

 Jesus said:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”

-3-

 ***This is our calling:***

***To know God’s ways of peace, and so to make peace, in our family and community, our nation and world.***

 Paul said:

“In Christ God was reconciling the world…not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

 ***This is our faith:***

***That in Jesus, we meet the God who makes peace with our wayward and hurting world; and that by this reconciling love, we are moved to bridge the chasms of fear and estrangement.***

 May it be so.

 ***Amen.***

HYMN ***Let There Be Peace on Earth***

Words and Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; © 1955, Ren. 1983 Jan-Lee Music. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;***

***let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we.***

***Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.***

***Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.***

***With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:***

***to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.***

***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Samuel 3:1-20

SOLO *Whispering Hope*

GOSPEL LESSON John 1:43-51

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD’S PRAYER & 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.***

-4-

***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

 ***Lord, we have heard your call, and respond with our offerings and our commitment to discipleship. No matter where we are, or how limited we think we are, there are ways for each of us to serve. Open our hearts, and eyes, and hands, to do your will. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Be Thou My Vision”***

Words and Music: Irish hymn and melody; Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;***

***naught be all else to me, save that thou art—***

***thou my best thought, by day or by night,***

***waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

***Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,***

***I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;***

***thou and thou only, first in my heart,***

***high King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.***

***High King of heaven, my victory won,***

***may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!***

***Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,***

***still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Standing on the Promises*

Welcome to all, as we thank and worship God, and listen for the Lord to speak a word of goodness and peace.

The bulletins are given in loving memory of the January 20th birthday of **Herman Wilson** by his wife, Nancy Wilson.

-5-

If you would like to place flowers in the background of Zoom worship, and pick them up Monday, please call Donna Streid at 877-7767. If you

would like to sponsor the bulletins please call the church office at 877-6060. Upcoming available dates are January 31, February 7 and 28.

January 31 will be a “5th Sunday of the Month”. Therefore, the **“cash plate offering”**will be designated for our church members’ Good Samaritan Fund for emergency situations. Of course, since we can’t pass the offering plates on Zoom, it won’t be the same, but we can still participate with mailed or delivered offerings, clearly marked for “5th Sunday of the Month.” Thank you for helping meet special needs.



In January our Mission of the Month is a **“Pick-a-Mission”** option. Everyone is asked to seriously think about all the mission projects we have supported in the past, as well as new ones or your personal favorites, and pick one, or more, for extra gifts. Send your donations directly to the organization; or, send them to the church office if we have directly supported them in the past, clearly identified so the counters can properly credit them and forward them in February. Here are some ideas, but the options are limitless. Illinois South Conference UCC programs like DuBois Center, Hunger Action Fund, Hoyleton Ministries, and Kindercottage. Granite City programs like Community Care, Good Samaritan House, APA, Bread of Life for when they begin serving again, Re-building Together, and TWIGS. National/International programs like Heifer Project, Souper Bowl of Caring, Habitat for Humanity, USO, Salvation Army, support and service organizations, and the many various medical support associations. Many of us have charitable organizations that are important to us. In January let us help them begin the new year with our extra donation of resources, or our time volunteered.

The **February Herald** deadline is Thursday, January 21. Please bring in articles or email them to Pastor Karla at karlajoyfrost@yahoo.com, since we do not yet have a front office secretary. Also, since we can’t have volunteers prepare the Herald for mailing after it is run-off, so Pastors Karla and Charles will be figuring it out, it may not get mailed in time to be received by February 1.

-6-



**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

Loretta Cook, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Shirley Thompson, Mary Lee Krohne, and Ruth Buer.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman

Hente, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Cliff Robertson, Valara Schorfheide, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Hospitalized**

Dolores Zeugin, Gateway Regional Medical Center in Granite City

**Illinois South Conference**

Smithton St. John’s UCC, Rev. Andy (Kristin) Wilson; St. Jacob UCC, Rev. Nancy (Stephen) Gamache; Retired Pastor Rev. Wesley (Doris) Bornemann.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Samuel 3:1-20**

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” 5and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. 6The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” 7Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet

-5-

been revealed to him. 8The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. 9Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” 11Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. 12On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. 14Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

15Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” 17Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” 18So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

19As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

**John 1:43-51**

43The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” 44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” 46Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 47When

-6-

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” 48Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” 50Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” 51And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”