**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

January 24, 2021 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” (Jonah 3:1-2

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace/How Great Thou Art*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Psalms 62 & 46

The psalmist declared:

***“For God alone my soul waits in silence,***

For my hope is from him.

***God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;***

I shall not be shaken.

***On God rests my deliverance and my honor;***

My mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

***Trust in him at all times, O people;***

Pour out your heart before him;

***God is a refuge for us.***

Let us pray together.

***O God, our refuge and strength, you are our help. Therefore, we will not fear. Though the world and life change; though trouble surrounds us; you are with us. Yes, you are our refuge. We come to worship you, to be still and know that you are God., to know that you are with us. Let us hear your voice of calm and take heart. 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;***

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***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.***

RESPONSIVE PRAYER SEEKING GOD’S PEACE

From *“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways! Reclothe us in our rightful mind;

***In purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.***

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian Sea,

the gracious calling of the Lord,

***Let us, like them, without a word, rise up and follow thee.***

O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,

where Jesus knelt to share with thee

***The silence of eternity, interpreted by love!***

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;

take from our souls the strain and stress,

***And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.***

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Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;

let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;

***Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,***

***O still small voice of calm!***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jonah 3:1-5, 10

SOLO *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:14-20

REFLECTION Believe and proclaim the good news of God

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.***

***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

***O Lord, we choose to follow you, and we choose to use our resources to proclaim your Good News. Bless our offerings and our lives, dedicated to serving in your name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”***

***Jesus calls us o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, “Christian, follow me.”***

***Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,***

***from each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more.”***

***In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”***

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***Jesus calls us—by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Count Your Blessings*

Prayer of Preparation for Worship: God, thank you for your mercy to Jonah, Nineveh and me. May I learn from them to follow your will—the first time. Amen.

The bulletins are given in celebration of the joint wedding anniversaries of Ruth and Larry Hubbard (65 years) & Justin and Samantha Hubbard (9 years).

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

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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.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

This year is different for many reasons. But, one thing is the same: the need to tackle hunger with the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year, the need for hunger relief in our country has grown exponentially. Our local food charities need our help! You can go to the Souper Bowl of Caring website to make an online donation, or give through our church, with all designated donations going directly to Community Care.

What if everyone watching the Big Game on February 7 gave just one dollar to local charities? What if each person gave what they could to local charities? We would have a lot less food insecurity in our country!

Thank you for helping make a collective impact on hunger!



Mabel Kennerly

on

February 9, 2021

Come honor Mabel Kennerly for her 100th birthday with a drive-thru celebration on **Sunday, February 7**, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. here at St. John United Church of Christ. Mabel will be in our elevator entrance to see everyone who enters our parking lot and drives around to the elevator entrance to wave and honk. A card box will be available, or mail them to her at 3833 Lake St., Granite City, IL 62040. This will be a SUPER CELEBRATION FOR A SUPERWOMAN!!!!!

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**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, Ruth Hubbard, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Cliff Robertson, Valara Schorfheide, Merle Rose, June Stille, Robin Totten and Don Young.

**SYMPATHY**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Dolores Zeugin**

who passed from this life on Friday, January 22, 2021. Arrangements to be announced. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

**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**

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

**3**The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, **2**“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” **3**So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. **4**Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” **5**And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

**10**When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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**Mark 1:14-20**

**14**Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, **15**and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” **16**As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. **17**And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” **18**And immediately they left their nets and followed him. **19**As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. **20**Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.