**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

January 31, 2021 4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols; we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

PRELUDE *Near to the Heart of God/It is Well with My Soul* Bliss

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

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Blessed be the name of our God from this time forth and for evermore!

***From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of God is to be praised!***

It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to your name,

 O Most High;

***To declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night.***

Let us pray together.

***Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who turn away from you, draw near to us that we may draw near to you, and grant us the grace to love and to serve you that we may find in your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*** Verses 1, 2 & 4

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!***

***O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration!***

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***Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning; sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining! Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?***

***Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!***

***All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.***

***Let the Amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.***

RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We Believe in God Almighty*

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We believe in God Almighty, maker of the earth and sky;

 ***all we see and all that’s hidden is his work unceasingly:*** God our Father’s loving kindness, with us till the day we die—

 ***evermore and evermore.***

We believe in Christ the Savior, Son of God and Son of Man;

 ***born of Mary, preaching, healing, crucified, yet risen again:***

he ascended to the Father’, there in glory long to reign—

 ***evermore and evermore.***

We believe in God the Spirit, present in our lives today;

 ***speaking through the prophets’ writings, guiding travelers on their way:***

to our hearts he brings forgiveness and the hope of endless joy—

***evermore and evermore.***

PSALTER LESSON Psalm 111

SOLO  *Soft Touch*

Inspired by Matthew 14:35-36—*After the people of that place recognized [Jesus], they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.*

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:21-28

REFLECTION

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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

 ***We praise you, O Lord, and give thanks to you with our offerings. May they tell of your healing love for all. Help us continue to work your wonders, as we serve in your name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”***

Ritch will play this through once before we sing it at home since it’s somewhat unfamiliar.

***May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day,***

***by his love and power controlling all I do and say.***

***May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,***

***So that all may see I triumph only through his power.***

***May the peace of God, my Father, rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.***

***May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea,***

***him exalting, self abasing—this is victory.***

***May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,***

***looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* Kirkpatrick

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Welcome to worship. May God’s word today strengthen your faith, inspire curiosity and learning, and motivate your service of others.

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.

Today is a “5th Sunday of the Month”. Therefore, the **“cash plate offering”**is designated for our church members’ Good Samaritan Fund for emergency situations. Of course, since we can’t pass the offering plates on Zoom, it isn’t 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.



On this last day of January, we celebrate our Mission of the Month **“Pick-a-Mission”** option. Everyone has been 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. Have you sent your donations directly to the organization; or, sent 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? Many of us have charitable organizations that are important to us. Our January gifts have helped them begin the new year with extra donations of resources, or our time volunteered. Thank you to all!

**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!

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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!!!!!

**THIS WEEK**

Monday, February 1: Covid Response Team, 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 2: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, February 4: Cemetery Committee, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 7: Worship on Zoom, Communion, 9:30 a.m.

 Noisy Offering and Souper Bowl of Caring



**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

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

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**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.

**Christian Sympathy**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Dolores Zeugin** who passed from this life on Friday, January 22, 2021. A memorial

service will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at Irwin Chapel. May the peace and comfort that comes from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Shirley Thompson** who passed from this life on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. A funeral service will be held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at Irwin Chapel in Glen Carbon. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

**Illinois South Conference**

Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy (Donald) Eckert; Troy Friedens UCC, UCC, Pastor Tim (Danielle) Harrison, Supply Pastor; Retired Pastor Rev. Robert (Doris) Utke.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Psalm 111**

Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
    in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
**2**Great are the works of the Lord,
    studied by all who delight in them.
**3**Full of honor and majesty is his work,
    and his righteousness endures forever.
**4**He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
    the Lord is gracious and merciful.
**5**He provides food for those who fear him;
    he is ever mindful of his covenant.
**6**He has shown his people the power of his works,
    in giving them the heritage of the nations.
**7**The works of his hands are faithful and just;
    all his precepts are trustworthy.
**8**They are established forever and ever,
    to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
**9**He sent redemption to his people;
    he has commanded his covenant forever.
    Holy and awesome is his name.
**10**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
    all those who practice it have a good understanding.
    His praise endures forever.

**Mark 1:21-28**

**21**They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. **22**They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. **23**Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, **24**and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I

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know who you are, the Holy One of God.” **25**But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26**And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. **27**They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” **28**At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.