**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

February 7, 2021 5th Sunday after Epiphany

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

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

“I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:22b)

PRELUDE *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  Mason

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

From *“The Power of Your Love”*

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Lord, I come to you; let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the grace that I’ve found in you.

And Lord, I’ve come to know the weaknesses I see in me

will be stripped away by the power of your love.

***Hold me close, let your love surround me.***

***Bring me near, draw me to your side.***

***And as I wait, I’ll rise up like the eagle,***

***and I will soar with you;***

***your Spirit leads me on in the power of your love.***

Let us pray together.

***O Lord, we come to worship you, with our eyes of faith open to see your presence everywhere. Your love lives in us, and your love lives through us. Open our minds to your will, as we live every day by the power of your love. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”***

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-2-

***Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.***

***Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.***

***Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,***

***calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.***

***Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.***

***Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.***

***Praise the One who brings cool water to the dessert’s burning sand.***

***From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.***

***Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place.***

***Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.***

***Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.***

***Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.***

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Selected Verses from Psalm 147

Praise the Lord!

***How good it is to sing praises to our God;***

For he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

***He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.***

He determines the number of the stars;

***And gives all of them their names.***

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

***His understanding is beyond measure.***

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;

***Make melody to our God on the lyre.***

-3-

He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

***He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.***

His delight is not in the strength of the horse,

***Nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;***

But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,

***In those who hope in his steadfast love.***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 40:21-31

SOLO *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* Maker

SECOND GOSPEL READING Mark 1:29-39

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. 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

***For every gift we have received, including the gift of healing mercy, we give you thanks, O God. Receive our gifts of love and bless them to do more than we can even know, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

INVITATION TO COMMUNE, AS INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT

Before we come to the Lord’s Table, we are asked to confess our sins and repent of our stubborn desires to go our own way. We cannot know peace when we turn away from God. Let us confess and pray for healing mercy.

***We come, O Lord, confessing our shortcomings; confessing our willfulness, our false pride, our selfishness and all other sins that infect us. Sometimes***

-4-

***our mouths spew anger and unloving words. Sometimes we take advantage of those we judge to be weak. Sometimes prejudice tempts us to condemn those different from ourselves. Sometimes we do not treat even loved ones with the respect we should.***

***O Lord, we confess and ask your forgiveness. Fill us with the desire and power to be renewed. Heal us and grant us peace, we pray. Amen.***

God is merciful and gracious, full of forgiveness, abounding in love, and overflowing with blessing. Receive the gift of forgiveness; live with new hope, peace, and the power to love as all are loved.

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING AND PARTAKING

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***We thank you, O God, for inviting us to this Sacrament where we have known the presence and power of Christ’s love, and have received the gift of spiritual healing. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us live in the light of your peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***

HYMN ***“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”***  Verses 1, 2, & 3

***O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;***

***I give thee back the life I owe,***

***that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.***

***O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;***

***my heart restores its borrowed ray,***

***that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.***

***O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;***

***I trace the rainbow through the rain,***

***and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.***

-5-

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Love Lifteth Me* Smith

Welcome to worship. Jesus our Teacher, Healer and Savior calls us to live in love.

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. The next available date is February 28.



Mabel Kennerly

on

February 9, 2021

Come honor Mabel Kennerly for her 100th birthday with a drive-thru celebration **TODAY**, 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**

Today: 2:00-3:00 Drive-Thru Celebration for Mabel Kennerly

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday: Zoom Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: Valentine’s Day

-6-



Next Sunday is Valentine’s Day. Since we will be worshiping via Zoom, we have a special idea to help us celebrate. If you have any past year’s Valentine’s cards to show, take a picture and email it to Karen Gaines at [gaines59@charter.net](mailto:gaines59@charter.net). She will incorporate them into power-point slides. Hopefully, we’ll see antiques, cuties, sweethearts, children’s artwork, and more, rejoicing in God’s gift of love shared with others.

**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 TODAY 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!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Sympathy**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Mildred I. Cochran** who died on Monday, February 1, 2021. A funeral service was held on Saturday, February 6, at Saksa Funeral Home. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief. **Nursing and Assisted Living**

Loretta Cook, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, 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.

**Illinois South Conference**

Valmeyer St. John UCC, Rev. Steven Boorsma; Waterloo St. Paul UCC, Rev. Lisa (Walt) Hart, Interim Pastor; Retired Pastor Rev. Loren (Grace) Windhorst.

-7-

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

**21**Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
    Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
    Have you not understood

from the foundations of the earth?  
**22**It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
    and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
    and spreads them like a tent to live in;  
**23**who brings princes to naught,  
    and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

**24**Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
    scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
    and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

**25**To whom then will you compare me,  
    or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
**26**Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
    Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
    calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
    mighty in power,  
    not one is missing.

**27**Why do you say, O Jacob,  
    and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
    and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
**28**Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
    the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
    his understanding is unsearchable.

-8-

**29**He gives power to the faint,  
    and strengthens the powerless.  
**30**Even youths will faint and be weary,  
    and the young will fall exhausted;  
**31**but those who wait for the Lord

shall renew their strength,  
    they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
    they shall walk and not faint.

**Mark 1:29-39**

**29**As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30**Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. **31**He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

**32**That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. **33**And the whole city was gathered around the door. **34**And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

**35**In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. **36**And Simon and his companions hunted for him. **37**When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” **38**He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” **39**And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

THIS PAGE IS NOT REDONE YET OR TO BE ON POWERPOINT. IT’S JUST FOR KARLA

COMMUNION PRAYER

God of shining glory, you poured your light upon us that the whole world might come to you and live in joy. Yet we choose the shadows, hiding your Good News and hoarding it. With the rising of Christ’s star you call us, like the Magi, to seek you anew and worship you. And so we join the company of heaven and earth singing:

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:***

***Heaven and earth are full of your glory!***

***Glory be to you, O God most high!***

Holy are you and blessed is your Child, Jesus Christ.....

For on the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to his disciples, telling them “This is my body, broken for you.” And in the same manner after the meal, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks he poured it out and shared it with his disciples, telling them “this cup is the new covenant of my blood, which is poured out for all.”

As often as we do this, we do it in remembrance of him.

And now, the Spirit is present at our various tables, uniting us at one table, the Lord’s table.

Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

Take and drink, the blood of Christ, shed for the forgiveness of sins of all.