**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

April 1, 2021 Maundy Thursday

Pastor: Karla Frost Organist: Ritch Alexander

7:00 p.m. Worship (618) 877-6060

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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**To follow safety guidelines, please**

**keep social distance, mask up, speak softly, and no singing.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION

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We are gathered in the presence of God,

who asks us to choose between life and death,

between blessing and curse.

***We are gathered like the people of Israel,***

***who were challenged to choose the way of life.***

Like them, we often follow the ways of death.

 ***Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day***

 ***to begin anew by the grace of God.***

By our presence, we are saying that we choose life.

 ***Let us praise the God of love and life***

 ***who has called us here tonight.***

And let us freely confess our sins.

***Create in me a clean heart, O God,***

***and put a new and right spirit within me.***

Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

 ***Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;***

Wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

 ***If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,***

 ***and the truth is not in us.***

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Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us confess our sins in silence,

and ask God for the forgiveness we need……………………………….

Now let us pray together:

***We confess, gracious God, that we are not worthy of your love for us. You lead us out of the land of oppression; yet when the journey is hard, we long to return to the comfort of our former days. You speak to us through your prophets, telling us how our rebellion hurts and angers you; yet we harden our hearts and close our ears. You come to us in Jesus, revealing your love for all people and suffering pain for us; and still we do that which we ought not to do, and we leave undone those things we ought to do. Forgive us, receive us, and give us courage to serve you with renewed hearts and wills; through the grace of Jesus Christ.***

Do not fear. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Our faith has made us free, and we are redeemed.

 ***Thanks be to God! Amen.***

HYMN ***“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*** Verses 1 & 2

***Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand—***

***the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land,***

***a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,***

***from the burning of the noontide heat,***

***and the burden of the day.***

***Upon that cross of Jesus my eye at times can see***

***the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;***

***and from my smitten heart with tears***

***two wonders I confess—***

***the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 12:1-14

READING ONE *The Upper Room*, presented by John

SOLO *I Only Looked Away* Beall/Carter

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**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING AND PARTAKING

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 14:32-42

RESPONSE ***“Go to Dark Gethsemane”*** Verses 1 & 2

***Go to dark Gethsemane,***

***you that feel the tempter’s power;***

***your Redeemer’s conflict see;***

***watch with him one bitter hour;***

***turn not from his griefs away;***

***learn of Jesus Christ to pray.***

***Follow to the judgment hall;***

***view the Lord of life arraigned.***

***O the wormwood and the gall!***

***O the pangs his soul sustained!***

***Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;***

***learn of him to bear the cross.***

READING TWO *Gethsemane*, presented by James

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:27-34

READING THREE *Denial,* presented by Peter

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

 ***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.***

RESPONSE *Chime Response*

GOSPEL READING Mark 14:53, 55-65

READING FOUR

 *The Trial*, presented by Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus

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GOSPEL READING Mark 15:16-20

HYMN ***“Were You There”***  Verses 1 & 2

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

***O - - - Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.***

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

***Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

***Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

***O - - - Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.***

***Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

BENEDICTION

MOMENT OF NEAR DARKNESS

LEAVING IN SILENCE AFTER THE LIGHTS ARE RAISED



On **Easter Sunday** we will continue with both Zoom and in-person worship, with Communion, at **9:30 a.m.** Use the Sunday Zoom

ID **818 3056 1303** and Passcode **496348**. We will also have an outdoor service, with Communion, at **11:00 a.m.** which will meet near the flagpole by Pastor Karla’s office entrance. Bring a lawn chair if possible, wear a mask, and follow social distance guidelines.

Sunday School will be held for **children who have been pre-registered** at 9:30 a.m. following all Covid19 procedures, including wearing masks at all times. No snacks will be offered. Older youth are encouraged to attend worship in the Sanctuary or on Zoom.

In the envelope packets there are special Lenten envelopes. This year the Council has designated our **Lenten and Maundy Thursday** offerings to be for the Illinois South Conference DuBois Center and all its camp programs. Generations have been blessed to experience the wonders of DuBois and grow in faith. Our support will help continue offering this mission year to year.

Our special Easter offering envelope giving will be placed in the **General Fund** to support our ministries at St. John UCC.

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Readings adapted from *That Dark Thursday Night* by Ronnie McBrayer.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 12:1-14**

**12**The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: **2**This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. **3**Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. **4**If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. **5**Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6**You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. **7**They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8**They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. **9**Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. **10**You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. **11**This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. **12**For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. **13**The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

**14**This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

**Mark 14:32-42**

**32**They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33**He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. **34**And

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he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” **35**And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36**He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” **37**He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? **38**Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **39**And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. **40**And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. **41**He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42**Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

**Mark 8:27-34**

**27**Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” **28**And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” **29**He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” **30**And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

**31**Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32**He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33**But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

**34**He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

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**Mark 14:53, 55-65**

**53**They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.

**55**Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. **56**For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. **57**Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, **58**“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” **59**But even on this point their testimony did not agree. **60**Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” **61**But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” **62**Jesus said, “I am; and

‘you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of the Power,’
and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

**63**Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? **64**You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. **65**Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

**Mark 15:16-20**

**16**Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. **17**And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. **18**And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **19**They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. **20**After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.