**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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

**To follow safety guidelines, please**

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Hebrews 5:5-10

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears,…(Hebrews 5:7a)

PRELUDE *Gentle Savior, Blessed Redeemer* Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Adapted from *Worship Services for Lent* produced by the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership © 1992.

God has made a new covenant with us.

***God has planted a kernel of wisdom in our hearts,***

***a seed containing the ways of God.***

Let us come seeking God’s presence within us and around us.

 ***Let us clear away the weeds of worry***

 ***and the stones of selfishness.***

 ***Let us water the ground***

 ***in which God has planted wisdom.***

We water the ground of our souls

with prayers, with praise, with song, and with silence.

 ***May God’s new life spring up within us,***

 ***even as we worship.***

Let us pray:

***O gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to***

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***behold you; ears to listen for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Glorify Thy Name”***

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***Father, we love you, we worship and adore you,***

***glorify thy name in all the earth;***

***glorify thy name, glorify thy name,***

***glorify thy name in all the earth.***

***Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you,***

***glorify thy name in all the earth;***

***glorify thy name, glorify thy name,***

***glorify thy name in all the earth.***

***Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you,***

***glorify thy name in all the earth;***

***glorify thy name, glorify thy name,***

***glorify thy name in all the earth.***

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Based on Psalm 51

Adapted from *Worship Services for Lent* produced by the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership © 1992.

We come before our God, asking for God’s abundant mercy and steadfast love, and asking God to blot out our sins.

***O God, wash me thoroughly from my evil doing, and cleanse me from my sin. I know my sins, and they are always before me. Against you and you alone, O God, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. You, O God, are blameless when you pass judgment.***

You, O God, desire truth in our inward being;

teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

***Purge me, so I shall be clean.***

***Wash me so I shall be pure as the snow.***

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

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***Do not cast me away from your presence,***

***and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.***

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and sustain in me a willing spirit…..(Time for silent confession)…..

Though we answer God’s calls with hesitant commitments and erratic responsiveness, God builds our faith by extending a decisive and steadfast love. Though our faults and failings are considerable, the love of God is infinitely considerate, patient, and kind, and we are forgiven.

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 31:31-34

SOLO *It Is Well* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON John 12:20-33

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 *In Faith and Hope My Peace Abides* Bach

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

 ***Lord, we have chosen to follow you, and to serve you and yours. May our gifts be like seeds of grain that grow to bear much fruit, gifts that feed the world, physically and spiritually, and glorify your name everywhere. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Jesus Shall Reign”***

Words by Isaac Watts. Music by John Hatton.

***Jesus shall reign where’er the sun***

***does its successive journeys run;***

***his kingdom spread from shore to shore,***

***til moons shall wax and wane no more.***

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***To him shall endless prayer be made,***

***and endless praises crown his head;***

***his name like sweet perfume shall rise***

***with every morning sacrifice.***

***People and realms of every tongue***

***dwell on his love with sweetest song,***

***and infant voices shall proclaim***

***their early blessings on his name.***

***Let all the people rise and bring***

***their special honors to our King;***

***angels descend with songs again***

***and earth repeat the loud Amen.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Rise Up and Serve the Lord* Walter

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Some people said to the disciple Philip, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus” (John 12:21). We are here because we too wish to see Jesus. Open your heart: Jesus is here. Welcome.

The **bulletins** are given in honor of my mother, Louise Koester’s 91st birthday by Connie Ahlers.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, and pick them up Monday, please call Sharon O’Toole at 314-420-1548. If you would like to sponsor the bulletins, please call the church office at 877-6060. The next available bulletin dates are April 25, and May 2, 16, & 30.

Please use the Meeting ID: **842 0206 5327** and Passcode: **384480** on the **Wednesdays of Lent** at noon to Zoom in for a 15-minute devotional service. It will be a simple service of reading with scripture and prayer. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 1.

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**Sunday School for children** **in the classroom by the nursery** has resumed. Everyone enters through the elevator entrance and follows all

Covid19 procedures, including wearing masks at all times. No snacks are offered. Older youth are encouraged to attend worship in the Sanctuary or on Zoom.

Easter Sunday School pre-registration forms are in the bulletin. Please turn them in by next Sunday, March 28, so we can plan appropriately.

In the envelope packets there are special Lenten envelopes. Coin folders are available on request. 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.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Herald Deadline

 Sunday School for Children

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Zoom Wednesday Devotional Service, noon

 842 0206 5327 384480

Next Sunday: Palm/Passion Sunday

 Sunday School for children

 In-person and Zoom Worship

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Loretta Cook, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, Karen Luddeke, and Nadine Ryan.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Paul Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Randy Fischer, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Cliff Robertson, Valara Schorfheide, Marge Schmidt, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Don Young.

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**Illinois South Conference**

Brighton St. John’s UCC, Rev. Laurie (Amy Brooks) Crelly, Cahokia Bethel UCC, Pator Karen Pepmeier, Retired Pastor Rev. Jack Spratte and Barbara VanAusdall, Mascoutah, IL

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**31**The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **32**It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their

husband, says the Lord. **33**But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34**No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**John 12:20-33**

**20**Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. **21**They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” **22**Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23**Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24**Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25**Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26**Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

**27**“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. **28**Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” **29**The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” **30**Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. **31**Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. **32**And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2012%3A20-33&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26602a)] to myself.” **33**He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

We know that children 5th grade and younger are excited about Easter for many reasons, and it is vital that they learn why we celebrate this day. **CHRIST IS RISEN!** That’s the lesson taught for all ages. Whether at home or in the church, that’s the lesson to be shared with children, so they know it by heart.

This year, of course, we will teach and celebrate the same message, but a little differently than in previous years. Covid19 safety practices must be followed for the sake of all ages. Therefore, children will need to be pre-registered to attend Sunday School on **Easter Sunday, April 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** This will enable class size location, planning, and preparation, as well as attendance recording. We will not have a traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Pre-filled baskets will be distributed as children leave the Sunday School area with family members. Please do not bring any personal baskets or goodies to Sunday School. No eating or drinking will be allowed to ensure that everyone wears a mask at all times. Enter through the elevator entrance which opens at 9:00 a.m., and then follow directions for classes. No other doors will be unlocked.

Please fill out and return the attached form for any children 5th grade and younger who will attend Easter Sunday School. Older youth will attend worship in the sanctuary. Thanks for your assistance in making this a safe, faith-filled, fun celebration.





Planning to come for Easter Sunday Sunday School?

Please sign-up so we can plan on you!

**Return this form by Sunday, March 28!!!!**

CHILDREN

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADULT BRINGING CHILD/CHILDREN

NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 HOME PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CELL PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

MAIL OR BRING FORM TO

ST. JOHN U.C.C., 2901 NAMEOKI RD., GRANITE CITY, IL 62040

OR TELEPHONE 618-877-6060 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE

OR EMAIL stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com

**See you Sunday, April 4, at 9:30 a.m.**