**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

May 23, 2021 Pentecost Sunday

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor Ritch Alexander, Organist

9:30 a.m. Zoom & In-Person Worship 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children (618) 877-6060

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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

**Following safety guidelines, please keep social distance, mask up, and speak or sing the bold print moderately.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth…” (John 16:12-13a)

PRELUDE *Abide With Me* Rick Parks & Harold Decou

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

From *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

Words: Janie Alford © 1979 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Hal H. Hopson © 2000 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with Pentecostal power;

***Give the church a stronger vision,***

***help us face each crucial hour.***

Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone.

***Still the church is called to mission***

***that God’s love shall be made known.***

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.

***Help our feeble lips to praise you,***

***glorify your holy name.***

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one: what mystery!

 ***We would sing our loud hosannas***

 ***now and through eternity.***

Let us pray together:

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***Holy Triune God, we raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears. For tomorrow’s unknown pathway, hear, O Lord, our humble prayers. In the church’s pilgrim journey, you have led us all the way. Still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day. Amen.***

HYMN  ***“Let Every Christian Pray”***

Words: J.R. Peacey © 1978 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Cyril V. Taylor © 1985 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***Let every Christian pray, this day and every day,***

***come, Holy Spirit, come!***

***Was not the church we love commissioned from above?***

***Come, Holy Spirit, come!***

***The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth***

***to seek and save the lost:***

***God never has withdrawn, since that tremendous dawn,***

***the gifts at Pentecost.***

***Only the Spirit’s power can fit us for this hour:***

***Come, Holy Spirit, come!***

***Instruct, inspire, unite, and help us see your light:***

***Come, Holy Spirit, come!***

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLES FOR 3RD GRADE STUDENTS**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 119:105

 Philippians 1:27

 John 3:16

PRESENTATION

SONG ***“Thy Word”***

Words: Amy Grant. Music: Michael W. Smith. Words and Music © 1984 Meadowgreen Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing) and Word Music. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,***

***Still you’re there right beside me.***

***And nothing will I fear as long as you are near.***

***Please be near me to the end.***

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

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LITANY OF WISDOM BASED ON PROVERBS 3

 My children, says the Lord, do not forget my teaching,

 but let your heart keep my commandments;

 ***For length of days and years of life they will give us.***

 Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you, says the Lord.

 ***Inscribe them on the tablet of our heart!***

 Then, O Lord, shall we find favor in your sight,

 ***And good repute among the people.***

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

 ***And do not rely on your own understanding.***

In all your ways acknowledge him,

 ***And he will make straight your paths.***

Honor the Lord and turn away from evil.

 ***It will be healing and refreshment for your body.***

Keep sound wisdom and prudence,

 ***And they shall be life for your soul.***

Then you shall walk on your way securely,

 ***For the Lord will be our confidence.***

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 8:22-27

SOLO *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* Thomas Chesterton

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 2:1-21

MEDITATION

HYMN ***“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”***

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Peter Cutts © 1969 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***Like the murmur of the dove’s song,***

***like the challenge of her flight,***

***like the vigor of the wind’s rush,***

***like the new flame’s eager might:***

***Come, Holy Spirit, come.***

***To the members of Christ’s body,***

***to the branches of the Vine,***

***to the Church in faith assembled,***

***to our midst as gift and sign:***

***Come, Holy Spirit, come.***

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***With the healing of division,***

***with the ceaseless voice of prayer,***

***with the power to love and witness,***

***with the peace beyond compare:***

***Come, Holy Spirit, come.***

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.***

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

 ***Spirit of God, we thank you for inspiring our giving in every way, as we know Christ among us and the love of God within us, and joyfully respond. Fill us and this church with your energy and power, that we might spread the good news of love to all the world. Amen.***

INVITATION, SILENT CONFESSION, AND COMMUNION PRAYER

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(All confessing Christians are invited to partake from the Table of the Lord.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

 ***Thank you, O God, for by your Spirit you make us one with Christ in the Sacraments, one with the saints in glory, one with each other, and one in mission to all the world. May your Spirit breathe life into our testimonies of truth and our acts of compassion and kindness, justice and mercy. Amen.***

HYMN ***“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”***  Verses 1 & 4

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Rowland H. Prichard; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***God the Spirit, guide and guardian,***

***wind-sped flame and hovering dove,***

***breath of life and voice of prophets,***

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***sign of blessing, power of love:***

***give to those who lead your people,***

***fresh anointing of your grace;***

***send them forth as bold apostles***

***to your church in every place.***

***Triune God, mysterious being,***

***undivided and diverse,***

***deeper than our minds can fathom,***

***greater than our creeds rehearse:***

***help us in our varied callings***

***your full image to proclaim,***

***that our ministries uniting***

***may give glory to your name.***

BENEDICTION From *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

Words and Music: James K. Manley © 1978 James K. Manley Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,

blow through the wilderness calling and free;

 ***Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,***

 ***stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.***

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.

 ***From the bondage of sorrow***

 ***all the captives dream dreams;***

Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.

 ***With bold new decisions your people arise.***

And so we go now

in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* Joseph Prentiss

The Holy Spirit called the church into being and continues to call us together. Welcome to worship as we celebrate the Day of Pentecost.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the birthday of John Bischoff on May 29th by Herb and Jeanie Bischoff, Jennifer, Britt, Alex and Nick Robertson.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in celebration of our 40th Wedding Anniversary by Bob and Nancy Jacobs.

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The **altar vases** are given in celebration of the May 23rd birthday of Lou Hasse. Love, Chuck and family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Sue Goedeke** at (618) 791-0137. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available dates are May 30 and July 18.

Thank you to **Chris McMillan** for serving as our substitute organist the past two weeks.

Excited to experience **"The Wonders of Ancient Israel:  Christian Heritage"**?Come to an informational gathering on **Wednesday, May 26, at 6:00 p.m.** in the All Purpose Room presented by Rev. Karla Frost and Mike Seibold.  Mike Seibold will give information and answer questions about our planned tour **September 12-21,** **2022.**Yes, that's over a year away, so plenty of time for things to settle down in the Middle East again and to get your arrangements made.  We invite anyone who is interested to come and learn more about this great spiritual and historical opportunity.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Pentecost Sunday

 Communion

 Wear Red

 3rd Grade Bible Presentations

 Sunday School for Children

 In-person and Zoom Worship 9:30 a.m.

 Outdoor Service 11:00 a.m.

Monday: Al-Anon, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

 Israel Tour Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday Cash Plate

 In-person and Zoom Worship 9:30 a.m.

 Outdoor Service 11:00

 Sunday School for Children

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

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

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**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Janet Cowley, Randy Fischer, Bonnie

Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Valara Schorfheide, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary Captain. Farina Friedens UCC. Retired Pastor, Revs. Earl Menchhofer and Pamela Smith, Conyers, GA.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Romans 8:22-27**

**22**We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; **23**and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. **24**For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? **25**But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **26**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **27**And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Acts 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2**And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3**Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. **5**Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6**And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7**Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8**And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9**Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,

and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11**Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s

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deeds of power.” **12**All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” **13**But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” **14**But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. **15**Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. **16**No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

**17**‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
    and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
   and your old men shall dream dreams.
**18**Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
    in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
        and they shall prophesy.
**19**And I will show portents in the heaven above
    and signs on the earth below,
        blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
**20**The sun shall be turned to darkness
    and the moon to blood,
        before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
**21**Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’



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**The Wonders of Ancient Israel: Christian Heritage**

10 days

***The tour package includes:***

* 8 nights in handpicked hotels
* 8 breakfasts
* 5 dinners
* 15 sightseeing tours
* Expert Tour Director & local guides
* Private deluxe motor coach

***Included highlights:***

* St. Peter’s Church
* Megiddo
* Church of the Annunciation
* Mount of Beatitudes
* Sea of Galilee cruise
* Mount Zion
* Church of the Holy Sepulchre
* Bethlehem

Here’s a breakdown of what each day will look like!

**Day 1: Travel day**

 Board your overnight flight to Tel Aviv today.

**Day 2: Arrival in Tel Aviv**

 *Included meals: welcome dinner*

Get to know Tel Aviv at your leisure before meeting your Tour Director and fellow travelers.

**Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Tel Aviv & transfer to Haifa**

 *Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

 Explore Tel Aviv on a guided tour.

Later, on your way to Haifa, discover some of Israel’s most legendary sites, including the ancient theater and hippodrome of Caesarea and the Knights Halls in the Crusaders fortress of Acre. Then, sit down for an included dinner.

**Day 4: Travel to Lake Tiberias**

 *Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

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Get to know Haifa on a guided tour. Then, delve into Israel’s spiritual history and spectacular scenery as you make your way to the Lake Tiberias region.

Upon arrival at Lake Tiberias, enjoy and included dinner.

**Day 5: Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum & Tabgha**

 *Included meals: breakfast*

Stroll, cruise, and climb through the backdrops of biblical stories.

Later, enjoy a free evening in the Lake Tiberius region or add an excursion. (+Galilean Evening & Dinner)

**Day 6: Jerusalem via Jericho**

 *Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

 Soak in the region’s vibrant spirit as you travel to Jerusalem.

After an included dinner, enjoy a free evening in Jerusalem or add an excursion.

**Day 7: Masada, the Dead Sea & Kfar Hanokdim Badouin Camp**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend the day exploring Jerusalem at your leisure or add an excursion. (+Masada, the Dead Sea & Kfar Hanokdim Bedouin Camp)

**Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Jerusalem & Mount Zion**

 *Included meals: breakfast*

Delve deeper into Jerusalem’s holy landmarks and cultural quarters.

**Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Bethlehem**

 *Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Delve deeper into Bethlehem’s holy landmarks and cultural quarters.

 Later, celebrate your trip with your group at a farewell dinner.

For further details about this trip and a more in depth look at what some of the tours have to offer, please attend the informational meeting this **Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** We look forward to seeing you and sharing more information on this once in a lifetime experience!