**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

June 13, 2021 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

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**Following safety recommendations, please continue to social distance, mask up, & speak/sing the bold print moderately.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

PRELUDE *Jesus Shall Reign* Whitworth

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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The Holy Spirit has given us life and pours on us the power to become new people!

***The winds of the Spirit have given us breath, and the fire of the Spirit has enkindled in us a love for God and each other.***

We come in faithfulness, ready for the surprises that God’s Spirit brings.

***We open our lives to the presence of God, and trust God’s promise to us that we can live new lives of freedom and grace.***

May God help us to be true people of the Spirit, letting holy surprises fill our days!

Let us pray together:

***God of all life and grace, we thank you for the seasons of this earth, for the seasons of planting and sowing, for the seasons of harvest and reaping. So also, you give us***

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***seasons of heart. Grant that in a drought of grace we may find your oasis of prayer. Grant that in a storm of grief we may find your shelter of enlivened faith. Grant that in the seasons of our days we may find your rich soil for our seeds of hope. God of all life and surprising holy grace—stay with us. Be our strength and hope in all times. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.***

HYMN  ***“Hymn of Promise”***

Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;***

***in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!***

***In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,***

***unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;***

***there’s a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;***

***in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;***

***in our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,***

***unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

LITANY *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*

Words: Jeffrey Rowthorn. Music: Robert A. Schumann. Words © 1979 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Company) Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

Creating God, your fingers trace

the bold designs of farthest space;

 ***Let sun and moon and stars and light***

 ***And what lies hidden praise your might.***

Sustaining God, your hands uphold

earth’s mysteries known or yet untold;

 ***Let water’s fragile blend with air,***

 ***enabling life, proclaim your care.***

Redeeming God. Your arms embrace

all now despised for creed or race;

 **Let peace, descending like a dove,**

 **make known on earth your healing love.**

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Indwelling God, your gospel claims

one family with a billion names;

***Let every life be touched by grace***

 ***Until we praise you face to face.***

DUET *He Touched Me* Ritch and Nancy Alexander

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

INTRO & RESPONSE *The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well*

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Music: James L. Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob. Music Arr. © 1932 Oxford University Press. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***The Lord my shepherd guards me well,***

***and all my wants are fed:***

***amid green pastures made to lie,***

***beside still waters led.***

***My careworn soul grows strong and whole***

***when God’s true path I tread.***

***Your steadfast love will follow me***

***to shield me all my days***

***and bring me to your holy house,***

***redeemed from error’s ways,***

***my whole life long to join the song***

***of those who sing God’s praise.***

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 4:26-34

REFLECTION

HYMN ***“Spirit of the Living God”***

Words: Daniel Iverson; vs. 2, Michael Baughen. Music: Daniel Iverson. Words and Music © 1935, Ren. 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing) Words vs. 2 © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company) Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;***

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

***Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.***

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

***Spirit of the living God, move among us all;***

***make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love: humble, caring, selfless, sharing.***

***Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.***

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE 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 PRAYER

 ***Creator God, you choose each of us to serve in some way, whether great or small in our eyes. You don’t measure our gifts in our terms, but instead rejoice with all our faithfulness. Thank you for planting the seeds of service in us, and helping us serve, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”***

***Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,***

***there is no shadow of turning with thee;***

***thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;***

***as thou has been thou forever wilt be.***

***REFRAIN***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***all I have needed thy hand hath provided—***

***great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!***

***Summer and winter, spring-time and harvest,***

***sun, moon and stars in their courses above***

***join with all nature in manifold witness***

***to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.***

***REFRAIN***

***Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,***

***thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;***

***strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,***

***blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!***

***REFRAIN***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March in A flat* Stickles

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Welcome to worship, as we pray: Speak your word to us, Lord, as we are able to hear it. (from Mark 4:33)

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of their 39th Wedding Anniversary on June 19th by Steve & Robin Totten.

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 date is July 18.

**Myra Cook** celebrated her **birthday** yesterday, June 12, 2021. Her birthdate was accidentally omitted from the June Herald. Happy birthday, Myra!

**Thank you** to Rev. Charles Preston for serving as liturgist for today.

**Thank you** to Ritch and Nancy Alexander for providing special music.

**THIS WEEK**

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

 Sunday School for Children, 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.

Next Sunday: **Father’s Day**

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

 Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.

 Outdoor Service, 11:00 a.m.

 Dedicate CWS Blankets & Tools Offering

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

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

**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., Karen Orr, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Valara Schorfheide, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, and Don Young.

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**Illinois South Conference**

Godfrey Evangelical UCC, Rev. Jerald (Lori) MeCaskey. Granite City St. John UCC, Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost. Retired Pastor, Rev. W. Curtis and Martha Lee, Newburgh, IN.



**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Samuel 15:34-16:13**

**34**Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. **35**Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. **16**The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” **2**Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ **3**Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” **4**Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” **5**He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. **6**When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” **7**But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” **8**Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **9**Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **10**Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” **11**Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” **12**He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” **13**Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Mark 4:26-34**

**26**He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, **27**and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. **28**The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. **29**But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” **30**He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? **31**It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; **32**yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” **33**With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; **34**he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.