**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

June 6, 2021 2nd 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 1 Samuel 8:4-20

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways, appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” (1 Samuel 8:4-5)

PRELUDE *Softly and Tenderly*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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From the ends of the earth we are gathered together;

***The poor, and the rich,***

The joyful, and the sorrowful,

***The honored, and the despised.***

All are gathered in one community,

***Reflecting the love and life of God.***

We have come from many worlds.

***Let us worship God as one!***

Let us pray together:

***O God, our God, we celebrate the new life which you have given us. We have experienced broken lives made whole, old wounds of alienation healed over, and tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision. Gracious God, we are so grateful for the purpose and possibilities you have placed before us. Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope, cynicism has replaced dedication, the world’s values have captured us more than yours. Forgive us those times, we pray. Help us let go of***

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***the past that we might move joyfully into a new future that points to your love and justice. Amen.***

It is with great joy that God grants us new life and forgiveness of our sin! With great joy, we are made alive! Thanks be to God.

HYMN  ***“I Then Shall Live”***

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***I then shall live as one who’s been forgiven;***

***I’ll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.***

***I know my name is clear before my Father;***

***I am his child, and I am not afraid.***

***So greatly pardoned, I’ll forgive another;***

***the law of love I gladly will obey.***

***I then shall live as one who’s learned compassion;***

***I’ve been so loved that I’ll risk loving, too.***

***I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;***

***I dare to see another’s point of view.***

***And when relationships demand commitment,***

***then I’ll be there to care and follow through.***

***Your kingdom come around and through and in me,***

***your power and glory, let them shine through me;***

***your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,***

***and may your living kingdom come in me.***

***The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor,***

***and may you feed a hungry world through me.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Faith” from the Kansas City Statement of 1913

Let us affirm our faith together:

***We believe in God the Father,***

***infinite in wisdom, goodness, and love,***

***and in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior,***

***who for us and our salvation lived and died***

***and rose again and liveth evermore,***

***and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ***

***and revealeth them to us,***

***renewing, comforting, and inspiring the souls of [all].***

***We are united in striving to know the will of God***

***as taught in the holy scriptures,***

***and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord,***

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***made known or to be made known to us.***

***We hold it to be the mission of the church of Christ***

***to proclaim the gospel to all mankind,***

***exalting the worship of the one true God,***

***and laboring for the progress of knowledge,***

***the promotion of justice, the reign of peace,***

***and the realization of human brotherhood.***

***Depending, as did our [ancestors], upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth,***

***we work and pray for the transformation of the world***

***into the kingdom of God,***

***and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness, and the life everlasting.***

EPISTLE LESSON 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

DUET *How Can I Keep from Singing?* George and Kiki Cochran

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 3:20-35

MEDITATION

HYMN ***“Let Us Break Bread Together”***

Words and Music: African-American spiritual; arr. Carlton R. Young. Music Arr. © 1975 Hope Publishing Company.

***Let us break bread together on our knees;***

***let us break bread together on our knees.***

***When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,***

***O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us drink wine together on our knees;***

***let us drink wine together on our knees.***

***When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,***

***O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us praise God together on our knees;***

***let us praise God together on our knees.***

***When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,***

***O Lord, have mercy on me.***

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.***

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**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

Based on Psalm 138

***We give thanks to you, O Lord, with our whole heart, giving thanks for your steadfast love and your faithfulness. All who call to you are answered with increased strength of soul. We call on you to help us be your out-stretched hand of deliverance and help, for your steadfast love endures forever. May our gifts and our acts fulfill your purposes. Amen.***

INVITATION 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

From *Book of Worship: United Church of Christ*

***Grant, O God, that the ears which have heard the voice of your song may be closed to the voice of clamor and dispute; that the eyes which have seen your great love may also behold your blessed hope; that the tongues which have sung your praise may speak the truth; that the feet which have walked your courts may walk in the region of light; and that the bodies which have tasted your living body may be restored in newness of life. Glory be to you, O God! Amen.***

HYMN ***“I Love to Tell the Story”***

***I love to tell the story of unseen things above,***

***of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.***

***I love to tell the story because I know ‘tis true;***

***it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.***

***I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,***

***to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

***I love to tell the story, ‘tis pleasant to repeat***

***what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.***

***I love to tell the story, for some have never heard***

***the message of salvation from God’s own Holy Word.***

***I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,***

***to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

***I love to tell the story, for those who know it best***

***seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.***

***And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,***

***‘twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.***

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***I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,***

***to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March* Wagner

Welcome to worship, dear family of God! Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with one or two others.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of William “Henry” and Norma Robertson by Steve, Robin, Sarah Totten, Lydia, Geoffrey & Dhani Huff.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of Wallace Roethemeyer by his 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 date is July 18.

**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.

Communion & Noisy Offering

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.

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

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

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

Outdoor Service, 11:00 a.m.

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Freeburg St. Paul’s UCC, Rev. Rick Mortimer. Godfrey Congregational

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Church, Rev. Richard (Sarah) McCreary. Retired Pastor, Rev. Michael & Elizabeth Marx, Sr., Owensboro, KY.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1**

**13**But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, **14**because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. **15**Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. **16**So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. **17**For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, **18**because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. **5**For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**Mark 3:20-35**

**20**And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. **21**When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” **22**And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” **23**And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? **24**If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25**And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26**And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. **27**But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. **28**“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; **29**but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— **30**for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” **31**Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. **32**A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” **33**And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” **34**And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! **35**Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”