**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| August 29, 2021 | 14th Sunday after Pentecost |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Ritch Alexander, Organist |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com | (618) 877-6060 |

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

**Today, face masks are optional for those vaccinated,**

**and REQUIRED for those not vaccinated.**

**Tomorrow they are REQUIRED for all.**

Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

***Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.***

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Song of Solomon 2:3-13 pg. 588

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

(Song of Solomon 2:12)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Glaser

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

With joy in our hearts we come to worship,

***Even as we also have sorrow in our lives.***

We come because we know God is generous in love,

***And we are blessed by the gift of love.***

Let us pray together:

***Creator of all that is, and of all the love in the world, we come to you in the light of this new day. Open our hearts and minds to receive your Spirit. Open our ears to hear the call of discipleship, and inspire us to respond as doers of your Word. May we be faithful and true in all***

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***things, eager to reflect your love in every circumstance. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*** #59

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

***Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,***

***and speak the truth from their heart;***

Who do not slander with their tongue,

and do no evil to their friends,

***Nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;***

In whose eyes the wicked are despised,

but who honor those who fear the Lord;

***Who stand by their oath even to their hurt;***

Who do not lend money at interest,

and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

***Those who do these things shall never be moved.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON James 1:17-27 pg. 215

SPECIAL MUSIC *All People that on Earth Do Dwell* Pelz

Ken Wille, Trumpet and Ritch Alexander, Organ

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 7:1-8. 14-15, 21-23 pg. 39

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”*** #589

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND UNISON 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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STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *How Great Thou Art* Whitworth

\*RESPONSE ***“Majesty”*** #43

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.***

***Majesty, kingdom authority***

***now flow from his throne unto his own, his anthem raise.***

***So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus;***

***magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.***

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***Jesus, who died, now glorified, King of all kings.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Lord God, we honor you with our lips and hearts and hands. We praise your power, and we thank you for giving us strength to serve in your name. Bless our offerings, that they may care for those in distress. Bless our actions, so that we are faithful “doers of the word” in these days. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“God of Grace and God of Glory”*** #569

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Postlude* Alexander

Life is full of ups and downs, twists and turns, but with God’s love “there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Let us worship the “Father of lights” (James 1:17).

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the 30th birthday on August 29th of Sarah Totten by Mom, Dad, Lydia, Geoffrey and Dhani.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Mary Jo Seibold** at (618) 792-0120. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available dates are October 3, 10, & 31.

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

**Thank you** to Ken Wille for providing special music.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

5th Sunday Cash Plate for Renee’s Rescue Sanctuary

Game Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

Thursday: Cemetery Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering

Fellowship Hall Reserved 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Start bringing items for Rummage Sale

**RUMMAGE SALE**

This year’s Rummage Sale will take place Thursday, September 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday, September 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Items for the sale may be dropped off on September 5 and then from Tuesday September 7 until September 22. Items may **not** be dropped off on September 6 because the office will be closed for Labor Day. Setup will take place September 21 & 22. **We will need many volunteers**, so please come any time after 9:00 a.m. if you’re able to help. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 877-6060. Masks will be required.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our August mission of the month is collecting donations to cover the cost of paper goods for Susage Dinner. Sausage Dinner will be held on **October 17, 2021**. The format of Sausage Dinner, whether it is drive thru like last year or otherwise, will be determined at a later date.

**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

Plans are to resume the scrip (gift card) program in September. Orders would be submitted the first and third Sundays with delivery the subsequent first and third Sundays. Exception would be that the order is not large enough to cover shipping expenses. “Favorites” order forms can be picked up in fellowship hall after worship service or will be on the table in the narthex. Check payable to St. John UCC should accompany order. Cost is face amount of gift card. No tax and rebate is automatically sent to the church. Not attending worship in person? No problem as you can still order cards. Just send a note with your

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payment to the church office. Delivery arrangements will be coordinated. Please contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty

Meszaros 618-670-5267 with questions or see them at the “scrip table” in fellowship hall. Appreciation to all supporting this project.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

Loretta Cook is at Anderson Hospital in Room 202.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Janet Cowley, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Karen Orr, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Sille, Trish Stromlund, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Nashville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Beverly Kahle, New Athens St. John UCC, Rev. Dr. Robert (Cathy) Koch. Retired Pastor, Revs. Janis Dashner and Bob Goddard, O’Fallon, IL

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**James 1:17-27**

**17**Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **18**In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. **19**You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; **20**for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. **21**Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. **22**But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. **23**For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; **24**for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. **25**But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

**26**If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. **27**Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, **2**they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. **3**(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; **4**and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) **5**So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” **6**He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; **7**in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

**8**You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

**14**Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: **15**there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

**21**For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, **22**adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. **23**All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

***“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”***

***Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,***

***God of glory, Lord of love;***

***Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,***

***Opening to the sun above.***

***Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,***

***Drive the dark of doubt away;***

***Giver of immortal gladness,***

***Fill us with the light of day!***

***All thy works with joy surround thee,***

***Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,***

***Stars and angels sing around thee,***

***Center of unbroken praise.***

***Field and forest, vale and mountain,***

***Flowery meadow, flashing sea,***

***Chanting bird and flowing fountain***

***Call us to rejoice in thee.***

***Thou art giving and forgiving,***

***Ever blessing, ever blest,***

***Well-spring of the joy of living,***

***Ocean depth of happy rest!***

***Thou our Father, Christ our Brother –***

***All who live in love are thine;***

***Teach us how to love each other,***

***Lift us to the joy divine.***

***Mortals, join the happy chorus***

***Which the morning stars began;***

***Love divine is reigning o’er us,***

***Joining all within its span.***

***Ever singing, march we onward,***

***Victors in the midst of strife;***

***Joyful music leads us sunward***

***In the triumph song of life.***

***“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”***

***O Master, let me walk with thee***

***In lowly paths of service free;***

***Tell me thy secret: help me bear***

***The strain of toil, the fret of care.***

***Help me the slow of heart to move***

***By some clear, winning word of love;***

***Teach me the wayward feet to stay,***

***And guide them in the homeward way.***

***Teach me thy patience – still with thee***

***In closer, dearer company,***

***In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,***

***In trust that triumphs over wrong.***

***In hope that sends a shining ray***

***Far down the future’s broadening way,***

***In peace that only thou canst give,***

***With thee, O master, let me live.***

***“God of Grace and God of Glory”***

***God of grace and God of glory,***

***On your people pour your power;***

***Crown your ancient Church’s story,***

***Bring its bud to glorious flower.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage***

***For the facing of this hour,***

***For the facing of this hour.***

***Lo! The hosts of evil round us***

***Scorn your Christ, assail his ways!***

***Fears and doubts too long have bound us –***

***Free our hearts to work and praise.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage***

***For the facing of this hour,***

***For the facing of this hour.***

***Heal your children’s warring madness,***

***Bend our pride to your control;***

***Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,***

***Rich in things and poor in soul.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage***

***For the facing of this hour,***

***For the facing of this hour.***

***Save us from weak resignation***

***To the evils we deplore;***

***Let the gift of your salvation***

***Be our glory evermore.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,***

***Serving you whom we adore,***

***Serving you whom we adore.***