**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| February 13, 2022 | 6th Sunday after Epiphany (C) |
| 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

**Currently face masks 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 Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. (Jeremiah 17:5)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*In the Garden* Miles

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

From *Lighting the Flame* by Charles Cammarata

Well, here we are, middle of winter.

***Christmas behind us, spring yet in the distance.***

The weather is cold. The days are short.

***Cloudy days, blustery winds, and some of us let the drear into our hearts.***

But tomorrow is Valentine’s Day.

***A day to celebrate love.***

For most, it will be a celebration of the beauty of human love,

***With lace hearts, and candy, and flowers.***

But for us, gathered this morning,

***It is also a celebration of the source of that love;***

A reminder, in the midst of dreary days and darkened hearts, that God is love,

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***That God’s love has come among us,***

That God loves us with love enough to spare.

***And that, therefore, there is love to share.***

So we say, “Get thee behind me, dark heart.”

***For even in the dreariest winter, the Son of Love***

***never stops radiating the warmth of his love to us.***

Let us pray together.

***You promise, Lord, but we don’t quite believe. We say we do. We want to, but we can’t get past the doubts the world plants in our heads. We can’t quite believe that you love everyone, including us, unconditionally, and that eternal life awaits us. O Lord, help our unbelief. Plant the Promise and Truth deep in our hearts where the blight of doubt cannot reach them. And make us whole, as only you can do. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*** #358

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

***Or take the path that sinners tread,***

***or sit in the seat of scoffers;***

But their delight is in the law of the Lord,

***And on his law they meditate day and night.***

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

***which yield their fruit in its season,***

And their leaves do not wither.

***In all that they do, they prosper.***

The wicked are not so,

***But are like chaff that the wind drives away.***

Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

***Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;***

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

***But the way of the wicked will perish.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

SPECIAL MUSIC *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 6:17-26

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REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“We Come, O Christ, to You”*** #110

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, 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

OFFERTORY *In the Sweet By and By*

\*\*RESPONSE ***“Spirit of the Living God”*** Vs. 2 #492 ***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.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***These gifts represent our commitment to sharing Jesus’ compassion and love for all. With your blessing, O God, may they fill those who are physically and spiritually hungry, and encourage those who weep. May our ministries together bring rejoicing as we celebrate life, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Because He Lives”***  #447

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Heavenly Sunlight* Cook

\*\*Words: Daniel Iverson; vs. 2, Michael Baughen. Music: Daniel Iverson. Words & 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

Welcome to St. John United Church of Christ, in the name of Christ our Savior, our Brother, our Friend. Amen.

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The **bulletin** is given in memory of the February 20th birthday of Bill Gaines & in honor of the February 17th birthday of Karen Smart by Diane Peach.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Rosalie Watson** at (618) 741-2979. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available dates to sponsor bulletins are February 27 and March 27.

Thank you to **Mike Seibold** for serving as liturgist today.

**THIS WEEK**

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

Souper Bowl of Caring

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.

Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday:GCC Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:30 p.m.

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

**JUST A REMINDER**

Please be extra thoughtful about caring for others when participating in church activities. Properly worn masks are necessary, as well as social distancing. Staying home when feeling ill protects others from not only Covid, but from all the seasonal illnesses. Let’s get through this riskier time together, and prepare to celebrate both the building upgrades and our church anniversary with joy.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our February Mission of the Month is designated for our next food box giveaway. With the success of our first giveaway on January 22, 2022, we are excited to provide for our community once again. More details for the giveaway will be made available at a later date.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Bobbie Braden (at Anderson Rehab), Hilde Few, Carol Hildebrand, JoAnn King, and Mary Lee Krohne.

**Hospital**

John Miller is at St. Luke’s Hospital, (Cards may be sent to 730 Henry Ave., Ballwin MO 63011). Karen Luddeke is at Anderson Hospital. Charlie Sullivan is at VA Hospital.

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**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Louise Koester, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, Trish Stromlund, Janice Weeks, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Farina Friedens UCC. Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary Captain. Retired Pastor, Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

**12**Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? **13**If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; **14**and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. **15**We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. **16**For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. **17**If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18**Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. **19**If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

**20**But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**Luke 6:17-26**

**17**He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. **18**They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. **19**And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. **20**Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. **21**“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. **22**“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A17-26++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25161a)] on account of the Son of Man. **23**Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. **24**“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. **25**“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. **26**“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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Table

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**ONLINE GIVING**

Online giving is a wonderful, convenient method for you to stay on top of offerings, especially while the building undergoes asbestos abatement and painting.

Below, you’ll find instructions on how to make quick and convenient offerings online.

**GIVEPLUS**

Powered by Vanco Payment Solutions.

To make electronic offerings, simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at stjohnuccgranitecity.com
2. Click the “Donate” button in the upper right-hand corner (if you’re on a mobile phone, you’ll click the three bars for the dropdown menu and then click “Donate”). You will be redirected to Vanco’s secure site.
3. Multiple tiles will appear. Click the “Sign Up” button in the upper right-hand corner.
4. Follow the onscreen instructions tile to create an online profile and to schedule your contributions.
5. Select the fund or organization you would like to contribute to, click “Contribute” and you will be prompted to fill in the amount and complete the transaction (if you selected “memorial” or “poinsettias”, you must enter the designation). Multiple funds can be contributed to with one transaction. The “basket” will keep track.
6. Credit cards, debit cards, and check drafts are accepted.
7. A receipt will be sent to the email address given in the profile.

This site is secured through Vanco. The transaction fee is less than those charged by major banking institutions. There is a button to click before the final transaction is completed if the donor would like to cover the transaction fee. The amount is 2-4%, depending on the form of payment.

No personal information is shared or sold to third parties. Profiles are saved and used for each subsequent login.

**Another great method to stay on top of your offerings is to set up a direct payment with your bank! You tell them how much you’d like to contribute and how often, and they send us the check. Easy as that! Contact your bank for more information on how to set up direct payments.**

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***“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”***

***Love divine, all loves excelling,***

***Joy of heaven to earth come down,***

***Fix in us thy humble dwelling,***

***All thy faithful mercies crown.***

***Jesus, thou art all compassion,***

***Pure, unbounded love thou art;***

***Visit us with thy salvation,***

***Enter every trembling heart.***

***Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit***

***Into every troubled breast;***

***Let us all in thee inherit,***

***Let us find the promised rest.***

***Take away the love of sinning,***

***Alpha and Omega be;***

***End of faith, as its beginning,***

***Set our hearts at liberty.***

***Come, almighty to deliver,***

***Let us all thy life receive;***

***Suddenly return, and never,***

***Nevermore thy temples leave.***

***Thee we would be always blessing,***

***Serve thee as thy hosts above,***

***Pray and praise thee without ceasing,***

***Glory in thy perfect love.***

***Finish then thy new creation,***

***Pure and spotless let us be;***

***Let us see thy great salvation***

***Perfectly restored in thee:***

***Changed from glory into glory,***

***Till in heaven we take our place,***

***Till we cast our crowns before thee,***

***Lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

***“We Come, O Christ, to You”***

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***We come, O Christ to you,***

***True Son of God and man;***

***By whom all things consist,***

***In whom all life began:***

***In you alone we live and move,***

***And have our being in your love.***

***You are the Way to God,***

***Your blood our ransom paid;***

***In you we face our Judge***

***And Maker unafraid;***

***Before the throne absolved we stand:***

***Your love has met your law’s demand.***

***You are the living Truth,***

***All wisdom dwells in you,***

***The source of every skill,***

***The one eternal True!***

***O great I Am! In you we rest,***

***Sure answer to our every quest.***

***You only are true Life,***

***To know you is to live***

***The more abundant life***

***That earth can never give.***

***O risen Lord! We live in you:***

***In us each day your life renew!***

***We worship you, Lord Christ,***

***Our Savior and our King;***

***To you our youth and strength***

***Adoringly we bring:***

***So fill our hearts that all may view***

***Your life in us, and turn to you!***

***“Because He Lives”***

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***God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;***

***He came to love, heal, and forgive;***

***He lived and died to buy my pardon,***

***An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.***

***Because he lives I can face tomorrow;***

***Because he lives all fear is gone;***

***Because I know he holds the future,***

***And life is worth the living just because he lives.***

***How sweet to hold a newborn baby,***

***And feel the pride and joy he gives;***

***But greater still the calm assurance:***

***This child can face uncertain days because he lives.***

***Because he lives I can face tomorrow;***

***Because he lives all fear is gone;***

***Because I know he holds the future,***

***And life is worth the living just because he lives.***

***And then one day I’ll cross the river;***

***I’ll fight life’s final war with pain;***

***And then as death gives way to victory,***

***I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know he lives.***

***Because he lives I can face tomorrow;***

***Because he lives all fear is gone;***

***Because I know he holds the future,***

***And life is worth the living just because he lives.***