**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January 30, 2022 | 4th 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 1:4-10

Then [Jeremiah] said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to him, “Do not say, ’I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.” (Jeremiah 1:6-7)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*There Is a Fountain* Primm, Arr.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

From the very beginning, God calls us.

***God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.***

We come up with excuses to avoid our calls, for we are afraid.

***But God reassures us in many and various ways through the course of our days.***

Even if we are brought to the edge of a cliff,

***God is with us and sustains us.***

Let us pray together.

***Spirit of life, God of love, open our hearts and enter in. We are grateful for life and all its gifts. Increase in us the stuff that life is made of—faith, hope, and love, but***

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***especially love—that we may abide with you eternally through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“The Gift of Love”*** #397

\*RESPONSIVE PRAYER ADAPTED FROM PSALM 711

God of all goodness,

we live in times of stress and controversy,

injustice and cruelty.

At times we cry to you for rescue

and remember that we have leaned on you since our birth

as we pray,

***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

We pray for leaders and nations around the world,

that they may seek justice and peace,

***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

We pray for your church in all its forms,

that we may be the love you want.

***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

We pray for victims of domestic violence and victims of war; grant your healing and give your peace.

***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

We pray for those trapped by natural disaster;

embrace them with your calm and send them relief.  ***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

We pray for those who are ill or suffering,

that they may feel the comfort of your love.

***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

We pray for your creation,

that the health of the earth may be restored.

***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

God our Wisdom,

enable us to be humble and kind in all things.

***Remind us that, whatever the issue,***

***today we know only in part.***

And even now faith, hope, and love abide;

and the greatest of these is love.

***Help us to be, like you, Love;***

Through Jesus Christ, our friend and Savior.

***Amen.***

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**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

SPECIAL MUSIC *Lovest Thou Me* Amenz

George Cochran, Jack Dawson

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:21-30

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“In Christ There Is No East or West”*** #600

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 *When All of God’s Singers Get Home* Amenz

\*\*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 DEDICATION1

***O God, bless these gifts that we have given as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors, that they may bring closer to fulfillment your reign of peace and love; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“For the Healing of the Nations”***  #621

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *There’s a Great Day Coming* Thompson

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\*\*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

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As Jesus told his hometown listeners (Luke 4:21-30), God’s care reaches beyond all borders. Whoever you are and wherever you come from, you are welcome here.

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 6, 27, and March 27.

Thank you to **George Cochran** for serving as liturgist today.

**THIS WEEK**

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

Monday: **Begin Asbestos Abatement – Office closed to public until abatement is complete**

Tuesday: Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering

**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.

-5- **EVENING GUILD**

The February 7th meeting has been canceled. Our meeting on March 7th will feature a guest speaker from the Granite City Senior Center. They will be discussing the various programs they offer.

**BROTHERHOOD**

Due to continued concerns of Covid, the Men’s Brotherhood has canceled its annual Valentine’s Party. We hope to be able to once again have the party next year. The decision regarding our annual St. Patrick’s Day party will be made at our February meeting. At this time, the Brotherhood is planning to hold its annual Spring meat sale. More details will be coming in February. Everyone continue to stay safe and wear your masks, if not for your own health and safety, but for the health and safety of others. We are all in this together.

**ASBESTOS ABATEMENT**

While the educational building and the youth side basement undergo asbestos abatement, the church office will be closed to the public. **Do not drop offerings in the mail slot.** The abatement will take place in the hallway right inside the door, so mail cannot be delivered through that slot. Drop offs may be taken to the parsonage back door and put between the storm door and inside door.

**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.

**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**

DuQuoin St. John’s UCC, Rev. Robert Morwell. East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson. Retired Pastor, Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, Hamel, IL.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2**And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3**If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**4**Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant **5**or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6**it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. **7**It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**8**Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. **9**For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; **10**but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. **11**When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. **12**For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. **13**And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Luke 4:21-30**

**21**Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” **22**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” **23**He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” **24**And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. **25**But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; **26**yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. **27**There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” **28**When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. **29**They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. **30**But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**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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***“The Gift of Love”***

Words: Hal H. Hopson. Music: English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson. Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***Though I may speak with bravest fire,***

***And have the gift to all inspire,***

***And have not love, my words are vain,***

***As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.***

***Though I may give all I possess,***

***And striving so my love profess***

***But not be given by love within,***

***The profit soon turns strangely thin.***

***Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,***

***Our spirits long to be made whole.***

***Let inward love guide every deed;***

***By this we worship, and are freed.***

***“In Christ There Is No East or West”***

Words: Michael Perry; from a line by John Oxenham. Music: African-American melody; arr. Harry T Burleigh. Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company) Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***In Christ there is no east or west,***

***In him no pride of birth;***

***The chosen family God has blessed***

***Now spans the whole wide earth.***

***For God in Christ has made us one***

***From every land and race;***

***Has reconciled us through his Son***

***And met us all with grace.***

***It is by grace we are assured***

***That we belong to him:***

***The love we share in Christ our Lord,***

***The Spirit’s work within.***

***So brothers, sisters, praise his name***

***Who died to set us free***

***From sin, division, hate and shame,***

***From spite and enmity!***

***In Christ there is no east or west –***

***He breaks all barriers down;***

***By Christ redeemed, by Christ possessed,***

***In Christ we live as one.***

***“For the Healing of the Nations”***

Words: Fred Kaan. Music: Henry T. Smart. Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***For the healing of the nations,***

***Lord, we pray with one accord,***

***For a just and equal sharing***

***Of the things that earth affords,***

***To a life of love in action***

***Help us rise and pledge our word.***

***Lead your people into freedom,***

***From despair your world release,***

***That, redeemed from war and hatred,***

***All may come and go in peace.***

***Show us how, through care and goodness,***

***Fear will die and hope increase.***

***All that kills abundant living,***

***Let it from the earth be banned:***

***Pride of status, race, or schooling,***

***Dogmas that obscure your plan.***

***In our common quest for justice***

***May we hallow life’s brief span.***

***You, Creator-God, have written***

***Your great name on humankind;***

***For our growing in your likeness,***

***Bring the life of Christ to mind;***

***That by our response and service***

***Earth its destiny may find.***