**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| May 14, 2023 |  6th Sunday of Easter(A)  |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Dan Comer, Music Technician |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
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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 Colossians 3:13-14

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love…

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Moma’s Knees* The Blythe Family

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Everywhere we turn, there is something to experience;

 ***Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by everything.***

Everywhere we turn, though, God is already there,

 ***And the Spirit of Truth abides with us.***

Everywhere we turn, we can find love and peace,

 ***As we keep Jesus’ command to love one another always.***

Everywhere we turn, we are invited to worship God,

 ***Who gives us abundant life.***

Let us pray together:

***Holy One, you are with us always and everywhere, yet at times we are distracted by questions and diversions. As we search for answers, direct us away from unsatisfying***

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***human answers. Direct us, instead, to true life with you, united by love forever. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Crown Him with Many Crowns”*** #317

\*A MOTHERS’ DAY LITANY1

All who gather here are sons or daughters.

 ***We praise God for the women who gave us life.***

For mothers brave, strong, compassionate,

full of wisdom and grace,

 ***We give God thanks and praise.***

For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

 ***We pray for peace.***

For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

 ***We pray for healing.***

For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us,

but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

 ***We pray for those that mourn,***

 ***and give God thanks for life eternal.***

For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

 ***We weep with those with broken hearts.***

For those who are struggling to raise children,

who are tired and weary,

 ***We pray that we may be their village,***

 ***offering real help in hard times.***

For those who are preparing emptier nests,

 ***We both celebrate and mourn with you,***

***and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.***

For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

 ***We pray for wisdom and patience.***

For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

 ***We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.***

For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for adoptive process to be fulfilled.

 ***We wait eagerly with you,***

 ***and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.***

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For women who do not have children, but teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

 ***We give God thanks and praise.***

For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ. For the caregivers, prophets, preachers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms,

 ***We give God thanks and praise.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 17:22-31 pg. 129

SPECIAL MUSIC *Rise Up and Call her Blessed* Pepper Choplin

GOSPEL LESSON John 14:15-21 pg. 103

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“I Need Thee Every Hour”*** #476

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *2 Minutes with God* At His Feet

\*RESPONSE ***“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”***

Traditional Doxology pg.#34

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***praise him, all creatures here below;***

***praise him above, ye heavenly host:***

***praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

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\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***With thankful hearts and hands, we offer these gifts, O God, to be blessed by you for good works. We do love you, and we do seek to obey your command to love others. Through our gifts and lives, we promise to remain faithful to you. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Now Thank We All Our God”*** #14

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Call her Blessed*  Stacy Knoll

1 Permission for the use of this litany for public worship is given by Rev. Robb McCoy, http://fatpastor.me.

Welcome to worship! Today we acknowledge mothers and special mother-figures in our lives — thank God for you!

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of their mother Margaret Wilaredt by Stephen Willaredt and family.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of my mother, Geri Schied, by Karen Orr.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Karen Orr** at (618) 558-4192. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available dates to sponsor the bulletin are July 16th & 30th.

Thank you to **Rev. Charles Preston** for serving as liturgist, to **Betty Meszaros** for greeting and to **Dan Comer** for serving as music technician.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: **Mother’s Day**

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

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

 Begin Blankets & Tools Offering

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

 Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m. with Almeda

Thursday: **Ascension Day**

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 Cemetery, Scatter Garden & Council, 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday: **Herald Deadline**

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

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

 Fellowship Hour by Chancel Choir Tenors & Basses

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our May & June Mission of the Month is dedicated to the Church World Service Blankets and Tools offering. Envelopes were included in the May edition of the Herald. Additional envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex.

**SCRIP**

Is June still the most popular month for weddings? Consider gift cards to a store on the registry. Do you know a high school graduate heading off to college? A gift card to Target might be useful to decorate the new dorm room. Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. Give order form and check payable to St John UCC to Betty Meszaros at any time. Cash is also happily accepted but only if giving order to Betty in person. Orders will be held until the third Sunday of each month and submitted then. Exception if total order does not cover shipping cost which is currently $10.50 per shipment. You can still participate in the program if not attending in-person worship. Just drop off or mail your check to the church with a note of cards you are ordering. Cost is face value of the card with no tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to church. Contact Melissa Lane at 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 if any questions.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Following our tradition, new members will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023. Please speak to Pastor Karla to set up a membership preparation time if you would like to covenant with St. John UCC then.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Earl Buenger, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Marjorie Schmidt, and Jerry Shonk.

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Isabella Boyer, Carol Braundmeier, Christopher Clark, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Mina McBrian, Cindy

Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Nancy Wilson.

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**Illinois South Conference**

Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy Smith. Trenton Friedens UCC, Rev. Dr. Tim (Darielle) Harrison. Retired Pastor, Rev. Robert & Doris Utke, St. Paul, MN.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 17:22-31**

**22**Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. **23**For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. **24**The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, **25**nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. **26**From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, **27**so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. **28**For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’ **29**“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. **30**While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, **31**because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**John 14:15-21**

**15**“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. **17**This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. **18**“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. **19**In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. **20**On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21**They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

***“Crown Him with Many Crowns”***

***Crown him with many crowns,***

***The Lamb upon his throne.***

***Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns***

***All music but its own.***

***Awake, my soul, and sing***

***Of him who died for thee,***

***And hail him as thy matchless king***

***Through all eternity.***

***Crown him the Lord of life,***

***Who triumphed o’er the grave,***

***And rose victorious in the strife***

***For those he came to save;***

***His glories now we sing***

***Who died and rose on high,***

***Who died eternal life to bring,***

***And lives that death may die.***

***Crown him the Lord of love;***

***Behold his hands and side,***

***Rich wounds, yet visible above,***

***In beauty glorified;***

***No angels in the sky***

***Can fully bear that sight,***

***But downward bend their burning eyes***

***At mysteries so bright***

***Crown him the Lord of years,***

***The potentate of time,***

***Creator of the rolling spheres,***

***Ineffably sublime.***

***All hail, redeemer, hail!***

***For thou hast died for me;***

***Thy praise shall never, never fail***

***Throughout eternity.***

***“I Need Thee Every Hour”***

***I need thee every hour,***

***Most gracious Lord;***

***No tender voice like thine***

***Can peace afford.***

***I need thee, O I need thee;***

***Every hour I need thee!***

***O bless me now, my Savior,***

***I come to thee.***

***I need thee every hour,***

***Stay thou near by;***

***Temptations lose their power***

***When thou art nigh.***

***I need thee, O I need thee;***

***Every hour I need thee!***

***O bless me now, my Savior,***

***I come to thee.***

***I need thee every hour,***

***In joy or pain;***

***Come quickly, and abide,***

***Or life is vain.***

***I need thee, O I need thee;***

***Every hour I need thee!***

***O bless me now, my Savior,***

***I come to thee.***

***I need thee every hour,***

***Teach me thy will,***

***And thy rich promises***

***In me fulfill.***

***I need thee, O I need thee;***

***Every hour I need thee!***

***O bless me now, my Savior,***

***I come to thee.***

***“Now Thank We All Our God”***

***Now thank we all our God***

***With heart and hands and voices,***

***Who wondrous things has done,***

***In whom his world rejoices;***

***Who, from our mother’s arms,***

***Has blessed us on our way***

***With countless gifts of love,***

***And still is ours today.***

***O may this bounteous God***

***Through all our life be near us,***

***With ever joyful hearts***

***And blessed peace to cheer us;***

***And keep us in his grace***

***And guide us when perplexed,***

***And free us from all ills***

***In this world and the next.***

***All praise and thanks to God***

***The Father now be give,***

***The Son, and him who reigns***

***With them in highest heaven,***

***The one eternal God***

***Whom earth and heaven adore;***

***For thus it was, is now,***

***And shall be evermore.***