

St. John United Church of Christ
“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent (C)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

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 AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”***

Vs. 1 #252

***Lord, who through-out these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Joshua 5:9-12

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho...they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Above All

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION¹

Based on 2 Cor. 5 & Luke 15

Come, all ye faithful...

To worship, praise, and pray.

Come, all ye unfaithful...

For God’s love welcomes us home.

Come into the presence of Christ...

For Christ’s grace makes us new and whole.

And so, we pray together:

Creator God, welcome us home when we wander afar.

Restore us with your compassion and love. Transform us

with your miraculous grace, that we might become the new creations you envision us to be. Strengthen us with the power of your Holy Spirit, that we might offer others the same welcome, grace, and love that you have offered us. In your beloved name, we pray. Amen.

Everything old has passed away. In Christ we are new creations, full of mercy and grace.

Reconciled to God through the grace of Christ, we share the blessings of peace.

*HYMN ***“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*** #68

*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;

At a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

Whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,

But steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,

And shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 pg. 170

ANTHEM *Go to Dark Gethsemane* Glockenspiel

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 pg. 73

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***"Our Father, We Have Wandered"*** Vs. 3 #371

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 FOR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING & 5TH SUNDAY CASH PLATE FOR GRANITE CITY APA

OFFERTORY *All Things Are Yours*

*RESPONSE² ***"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"*** #738

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with your glory: Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

With glad hearts we offer these gifts to you, O God. Transform them with the power of your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may bring forth new life. May our offerings transform others' lives into the new creation you promise to all. Amen.

*HYMN ***"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*** #72

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*