

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

March 9, 2025

1st 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 (Remembrance Plaque)

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:

To serve God and my country,

To help people at all times,

And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

PRAYER FOR ALL GIRL SCOUTS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Dear Father in Heaven, we know we are your children, we want to serve you faithfully, and we want to keep our Girl Scout Promise. Help us to listen to your voice; help us to be willing and quick to do your work; help us to be friendly and loving; and help us to thank you every day for all your gifts to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*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

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High...will say to the Lord,
“My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” (Vss. 1-2)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Christ You Call Us All to Service

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION¹

Welcome home, beloved children of God!

Gathered in God's arms, we come to worship.

Sheltered in God's love, we come to grow in love.

Abiding in God, we seek solace and comfort.

Even as we are on wilderness journeys,

We trust that God is with us, guiding and protecting our days.

And so, we pray together:

God of our weary years, lift us up and guide us forward, when we are tired beyond words. Pour your grace into our souls, when we give in to temptation and stray where we were never meant to go. Shepherding God, guide us back to you and show us the path home. In hope and gratitude, we pray.

Amen.

In God's love, we are delivered.

In God's presence, we are sheltered.

In times of trouble and times of joy,

God is with us, always and everywhere.

*HYMN

"On Eagle's Wings"

#438

*RESPONSIVE GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil.

He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Deuteronomy 26:1-11 pg. 174

ANTHEM *Holy, Holy, Holy* Amenz
George Cochran, Jack Dawson, David Ekstrand, John Nitchman

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 10:8-13 pg. 150

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN **"As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought"** #570

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

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision*

*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

God of abundance, we offer these gifts, along with our praise and thanksgiving. You generously pour out your love and the gifts of this good earth to us, each and every day. Bless the gifts we return to you now, that they may bring abundant love and sustenance to many in need of your blessing. With grateful hearts, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN **“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”** #473

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Be Still My Soul*

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² Music: American Melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-) © 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission CCLI License #1334401

We thank **Allison Reynolds** for serving as liturgist, and **Janice Weeks** for serving as greeter.

The **bulletins and altar vases** are given in honor of **Girl Scout Sunday** by Karen Orr, Connie Ahlers, Marcia Buenger, Christie Roth, Karen Luddeke, Ruth Hubbard, Trish Stromlund, Sandy Dawson, Linda Mizell, and Donna Brandes.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Becky Kriegel at (618) 772-8149**. Flower Emporium offers \$25 (small), \$30 (medium), or \$35 (large) arrangements. If you would like to **sponsor a bulletin**, please call the **Church Office at (618) 877-6060**. The following dates are currently available; May 4 & 11, 2025, July 13, 2025, August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ham and Beans Dinner – Saturday, March 22nd, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Noon Lenten Service & Lunch – Wednesday, March 26th

Spring Vendor/Craft Fair – Saturday, March 29th

Brotherhood Meat Sale Pick Up – April 11th & 12th

Spring Spruce-Up – Saturday, April 12th

Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, April 17th

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 20th

Spring BBQ – Saturday, May 3rd



WEEKLY
Sneak Peek

- Today: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.
Girl Scout Sunday
- Monday: Al-Anon, 9:30 a.m.
Brotherhood St. Patrick's Day Party, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.
Hilltoppers, NOON
Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.
Christian Education/Worship & Fellowship, 6:00 p.m.
Restructure Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday: Council, 6:00 p.m.
Brownies, 6:15 p.m.
GCC Band, 6:15 p.m.
- Saturday: ISC Day of Discipleship at Trinity UCC
HERALD DEADLINE
- Next Sunday: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour by Tuesday Bible Study

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, March 26: Noon Lenten Service & Lunch,
Here, 12:00 p.m.(Noon)
- Sunday, March 30: One Great Hour of Sharing,
worship & Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 7: Evening Guild Lenten Quiet Hour,
salad & bread, communion, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 12: Spring Spruce Up, inside and
outside facilities workday, 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday,
worship and Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday, worship
with readings and communion, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 20: Easter, worship with communion
and Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.,
followed by Fellowship Hour