**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

March 23, 2025 3rd 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 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. Vs. 12

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Rock of Ages*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION1 Based on Isaiah 55 & Psalm 63

The table is set. The banquet is laid.

 ***Our souls hunger and thirst for God.***

Our gracious host welcomes us here.

***God’s steadfast love is better than life.***

Sing for joy in the shadow of God’s wings.

***We have come to praise the living God.***

And so, we pray together:

***Merciful God, when we suffer thirst, you refresh us with the waters of life. When we set our jaws and lose our cool, you heal our hardness of heart. Help us abide in your steadfast love, both now and forevermore. Amen.***

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God is our help in times of trial and when we lose our way.

***When we place our trust in Christ, God helps us stand and restores our honor.***

Trust the One who abounds in steadfast love!

\*HYMN ***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*** #71

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;

***My flesh faints for you,***

***as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.***

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

***Beholding your power and glory.***

Because your steadfast love is better than life,

***My lips will praise you.***

So I will bless you as long as I live;

***I will lift up my hands and call on your name.***

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,

 ***And my mouth praises you with joyful lips***

When I think of you on my bed

 ***And meditate on you in the watches of the night,***

For you have been my help,

 ***And in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.***

My soul clings to you;

 ***Your right hand upholds me.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:1-9 pg. 644

ANTHEM *That Wondrous Cross* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 13:1-9 pg. 71

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Have Thine Own Way, Lord!”*** #486

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.***

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STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*

\*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

 ***Loving God, you have set the table before us and given us every good thing. In gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings. Accept our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit and that we may enter into your glory. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Near the Cross”*** #479

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth*

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

We thank Robin Totten for serving as liturgist, and Rae Ellen Voegler for serving as greeter.

The **bulletins** are given **in loving memory of my mother, Louise Koester** by Connie Ahlers.

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.