

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

April 6, 2025

5<sup>th</sup> 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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City 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

Psalm 126

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go  
out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with  
shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Storybook: Spring Sings, published by B & H Publishing Group, Nashville,  
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## PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER <sup>1</sup>

Based on Psalm 126 & John 12

When we have been hurt and lost,

God brings us laughter and joy.

When our lives reach a dead end,

God opens a way forward

When the rivers of our lives dry up,

God sends living water to quench our thirst.

God has done great things for us! Let  
us rejoice!

And let us pray together:

God of Love, you know our lives inside and out—the times of joy and laughter, and the times of loss and pain. Jesus our sibling, you wept at the grave of Lazarus and then you celebrated at the dinner table with your resurrected friend Be with us in times of plenty and times of want, and let us rejoice in your presence, for you see us and care for us. In the name of the All-Embracing Spirit, we pray. Amen.

\*HYMN & NOISY OFFERING "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #255

\*LITANY OF CONFESSION <sup>2</sup>

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—a new and abundant life. With confidence in God's generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn

our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us, Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new, In Christ's name, we pray, Amen.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous. Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, who has made us his own. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun. Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, we press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

\*SUNG RESPONSE <sup>3</sup> "There's Something About That Name"

#108 Jesus, Jesus, Jesus: there's just something about that name!

Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain;  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all heaven and earth proclaim:  
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that name!

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON	Philippians 3:4b-14	pg. 187
ANTHEM	Speak His Name	The Bald & The Beautiful
	Dan Comer, Karen Gaines, Becky Kriegel, Diane Peach, & Greg Young	
GOSPEL LESSON	John 12:1-8	pg.
MEDITATION		100

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #261

## PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE "The Lord's Prayer" (One Amen) #740

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY Blessed Assurance The Bald & The Beautiful  
Dan Comer, Karen Gaines, Becky Kriegel, Diane Peach, & Greg Young

\*RESPONSE4 "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 DEDICATION<sup>1</sup>

Loving Savior, you took a path of suffering to reach out to us in our suffering. Use us and our gifts to extend your love and comfort to reach people in places of loss and grief. Use us and our gifts this day to bring hope and compassion to those who weep, that they may know your miraculous power and your fullness of life. Use us and our gifts to bring shouts of joy to those who weep. Amen.

### INVITATIONI

The bread of heaven is available to all.

The cup of blessing is poured out for all.

Come and find nourishment for the soul's journey.

We come to partake of the abundant grace of God

### COMMUNION PRAYER<sup>2</sup>

### PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contains white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each

element when served in the pews so all may partake together, remembering that in the upper room last supper Jesus said, "take this and divide it among yourselves." (Luke 22:17b)

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we thank you for satisfying our hunger and thirst for your blessing in this Sacrament. We thank you for granting us your forgiveness and mercy, and for inspiring us to share them with others. May we be extravagant in pouring out your love and understanding with all we meet, and with those beyond our touch. And, may the assurance of your salvation carry us forward in this life and forever. Amen.

\*HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" #712

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE I Will Sing of My Redeemer

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<sup>4</sup> Music: American Melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942\* ) © 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission CCLI License #1334401 (#738)

The bulletins are given in celebration of my wonderful family and their birthdays: Mom, Dad, Dave, Andrew, Kelly (and even Luna!) by Karen.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call Pam Sullivan at (618) 540-0098. 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.