

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

June 1, 2025

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

2901 Nameoki Road

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Seventh Sunday of Easter (C)

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Sunday School for Children

Granite City, IL 62040

(618) 877-6060

Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc

Facebook: Search St. John UCC Granite 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

*RESPONSE¹ ***“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”*** Vs. 5 #312

Christ is alive and comes to bring

good news to this and every age;

till earth and sky and ocean ring

with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20-21

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Vss. 11-12)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER²

God reigns; let all the earth rejoice;

let every nation be glad!

God brings righteousness and justice;

let all the earth see and tremble!

The heavens proclaim God’s righteousness

and all the people behold God’s glory.

We put aside all our idols to worship God

and give thanks and praise to God’s holy name.

Light dawns for the righteous,

and joy for the upright of heart.

**God is our Alpha and Omega,
the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.**

Let us now pray together.

**Come, Lord Jesus, to bring the water of life to our thirsty
souls. May this place of prayer provide the refreshment we
need to confirm our faith and send us forth into the world.
Wash our wounds, heal our divisions, and remove our
hesitation to speak the truth in love. Amen.**

*HYMN AND NOISY OFFERING ***“Sing Praise to the Father”*** #142

*LITANY OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS²

We do not often identify ourselves among the lawless or wicked or adversaries of God's ways. Yet, under the veneer of respectability, we are often found lacking. Let us admit to God and to one another that we are not fulfilling the potential God has entrusted to us.

***Most High God, we confess that we have used others for our
own gain. We resist the rule of love and turn away from cries
for help. We seek to settle differences with violence rather
than work for the unity of your children. Take our misplaced
loyalties and turn them around, so we serve your purposes.
Amen.***

The water of life is ours without price; it is God's gift to all who are thirsty. The love of God in Christ comes to us, transforming the way we look at our surroundings and at other people. Receive the gift of forgiveness and salvation through Christ, now and forever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 16:16-34 pg. 128

SPECIAL MUSIC *Jesus Loves Me* David W. Ekstrand

GOSPEL LESSON John 17:20-26 pg. 105

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***“Sweet Hour of Prayer”*** #478

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE ***“The Lord's Prayer”*** (One Amen) #740

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Stand By Me

*RESPONSE³

“Alleluia No. 1”

#291

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Without thought of gain, we return for the work of your church, O God, a generous portion of your goodness to us. Use these gifts to shake the foundations of evil and build new structures of peace. Unite us in one chorus of praise that echoes across this planet. Amen.

INVITATION⁴

When Jesus sat at table and enjoyed fellowship with tax collectors and sinners,

He proclaimed that God's care knows no bounds.

We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness:

All are invited now to share God's table.

All are nourished by the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing.

All are united in the Waters of Life and made One in the Lord.

COMMUNION PRAYER

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 THANKSGIVING⁴

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks

and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

“For the Healing of the Nations”

#621

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

They’ll Know We Are Christians

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We thank George Cochran for serving as liturgist and Rae Ellen Vogeler for serving as greeter.

The **bulletins** are given in loving memory of William “Henry” and Norma Robertson by Steve, Robin, Sarah, Lydia, and Dhani.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in loving memory of Wallace Roethemeyer by his family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Rae Ellen Vogeler at 618-373-8804**. 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; July 13, 2025, August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE ANNUAL BLANKETS AND TOOLS OFFERING

Once again, as our Mission of the Month, we will support the ministry of Church World Service through financial gifts to the Blankets and Tools Offering gathered from Mother’s Day through Father’s Day. Please clearly mark any donations so our counters can properly designate them for Church World Service. Our gifts do make a difference throughout the world.