**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

May 11, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter (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 Acts 9:36-43

Tabitha/Dorcas—devoted to good works and acts of charity—showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made.

Evening Guild presentation by Christie Roth.

\*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 Psalm 23

 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

 He makes me lie down in green pastures;

 He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul…

 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

 And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *May Song* Mozart

Sarah Haven and Jim Simpson

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER2  From Hymn #655

Come away from rush and hurry

to the stillness of God’s peace;

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***From our vain ambition’s worry,***

***come to Christ to find release.***

Come away from noise and clamor,

life’s demands and frenzied pace;

***Come to join the people gathered***

***here to seek and find God’s face.***

In the pastures of God’s goodness

we lie down to rest our soul.

 ***From the waters of God’s mercy***

 ***we drink deeply, are made whole.***

At the table of God’s presence

all the saints are richly fed.

 ***With the oil of God’s anointing***

 ***into service we are led.***

Let us pray together: Adapted from Hymn #655 and Revelation 7:12

***Gentle Shepherd, we come with our burdens—life’s confusions, fears and pain. We leave them now for healing in the comfort of your reign. We bring our thirsts, for you will quench them; all our longings you will satisfy. We receive your goodness and mercy; and your blessings magnify. And so, we join the multitude of angels and the faithful singing “blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!” Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well”*** #73

\*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

 A New Creed of The United Church of Canada, Rev. 1995

We are not alone,

 ***we live in God’s world.***

We believe in God:

 ***who has created and is creating,***
 who has come in Jesus,

 ***the Word made flesh,***
 to reconcile and make new,
     ***who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

 ***We are called to be the Church:***

to celebrate God’s presence,
     ***to live with respect in Creation,***

to love and serve others,
     ***to seek justice and resist evil,***

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to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
    ***our judge and our hope.***

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
     ***God is with us.***We are not alone.

     ***Thanks be to God.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Revelation 7:9-17 pg. 235

SPECIAL MUSIC  *Love Through Me* AMENZ

George Cochran, Jack Dawson, David Ekstrand, and John Nitchman

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:22-30 pg. 98

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*** #440

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 *Peasant Cantata* Bach

Sarah Haven and Jim Simpson

\*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 DEDICATION

 ***“Good works and acts of charity” are blessings we share with others as faithful believers, O God. Today we begin our***

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***annual Church World Service special offering to spread your love near and far. Wherever the shadows of fear and evil are darkest, may we shine your Light of Life. Bless and fill with your Spirit all of our offerings given with thanks to you from our heart and hands. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Now Thank We All Our God”*** #14

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Gentle Shephard*

 1”Christ is Alive” Hymn #312, Words by Brian Wren (1936- ) © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission CCLI License #1334401

2“Come Away from Rush and Hurry” Hymn # 655, Words by Marva J. Dawn (1948- ) ©. Used by permission CCLI License #1334401

3“Alleluia No. 1” Hymn #291, Words and Music by Donald Fishel (1950- ) © 1973 The Word of God Music (Admin. The Copyright Company). Used by permission CCLI License #1334401

We thank Caslyn Brandes for serving as liturgist and Janice Weeks and Nancy Wilson for serving as greeters.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Rae Ellen Voegler 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.

**EVENING GUILD**

Apron making was a ‘hue’-mongous success and as promised, we are opening the invitation to everyone! The second date will be May 29th at Noon and cost is $25. One of our regular vendors from the Fruhling Market is leading the activity and will bring all necessary supplies. Please contact President Christie Roth at 618-931-6194 to let her know you will be attending or for additional information.

LOOKING AHEAD:  June 2nd meeting will be ladies night out with dinner at Uncle Linny’s Food and Brews. No meeting in July or August. September will be second Monday joint gathering with Brotherhood for potluck dinner.