

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

May 4, 2025

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

2901 Nameoki Road

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YouTube: gcstjohnucc

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.

Third 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

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

Psalm 30

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever. (Vss. 11-12)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

It Is Well with My Soul

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Raise honor to the Lord, O you his faithful ones.

O Lord my God, I will give glory to you forever.

Sing praise to the Lord, O you his faithful ones.

O Lord my God, I will offer praise to you forever.

Shout gratitude to the Lord, O you his faithful ones.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Cry to the Lord of mercy, O you his faithful ones.

O Lord my God, I will offer prayers to you forever.

Let us now pray together.

Enter our worship, O surprising and challenging Spirit, and open our eyes to see what you ask of us. Give us the vision to accept what the Lord asks of us. Grant us renewed strength to go and do what God asks of us. May mercy and love motivate our discipleship as we offer our lives of service, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN AND NOISY OFFERING ***“Be Thou My Vision”*** #502

*LITANY OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS² Based on Psalm 30
When your soul is suffering in silence, call out to the Lord our God, who heals our brokenness, who lifts us up from the pit and restores our lives. Let us confess our sin.

Lord God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied. Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace, so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the gospel. Amen.

Rise up from the dust! Cast off the shroud of sorrow and put on the joy of the Lord. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 9:1-20 pg. 119

ANTHEM *How Can I Keep from Singing* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON John 21:1-19 pg. 109

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***“Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult”*** #345

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *My Lord What A Morning*

*RESPONSE³ **“Alleluia No. 1”** Vs. 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 Based on Revelation 5:12

Worthy are you, O God, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. Receive these gifts of thanksgiving and praise and use them for your glory and the good of your people; in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

INVITATION

Like the disciples of old, we have work to do, lives to live, and people to care for.

And Jesus is in the midst of it all.

Sometimes we are quite aware of his presence, and sometimes we are so wrapped up in life that we lose sight of him.

But Jesus is always in our midst.

In this moment of this day, may we be especially aware that he is in our midst.

Jesus is here, inviting each of us to his Table.

All are welcome to partake of his Bread of Life.

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 THANKSGIVING

O Lord our God, we give thanks to you for the new life given in this Sacrament. Generation to generation your people, your sheep, have been fed with your love. Jesus is now in the midst

of our lives as we follow him, and as we go to tend and love his sheep, nourished and inspired for service, in his name. Amen.

*HYMN

“Hymn of Promise”

#515

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Great Is the Lord

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We thank Linda Mizell for serving as liturgist and Rae Ellen Voegler for serving as greeter.

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; May 11, 2025, July 13, 2025, August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.



MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our May Mission of the Month is financial donations to CWS blankets and tools. Please see the following article for more information. If there is another financial gift on your heart to a particular place or fund, please designate when given through the church so the counters can direct them correctly and add your envelope number if you have weekly envelopes.