

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

July 20, 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.

6th Sunday after Pentecost (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 ***“They’ll Know We Are Christians”*** Vs. 1 #595

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Colossians 1:15-28

[Jesus] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. (Vs. 18)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Abide with Me

Jim Simpson

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER ²

Our hearts are famished.

We are hungry for God’s Word.

May the good words we hear take root in our hearts.

May the true wisdom they teach take root in our lives.

Let us pray:

When the winds of life buffet us, O God, we need your hand to hold us and your love to make us whole. Speak words of

peace to our aching hearts, that we might find the courage to embrace the fullness of life you place before us. Correct our sight when our vision fades, and calm our frenzy when our busyness distracts us. Lead us in right paths as we trust in you. Amen.

*HYMN

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

#111

*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING

Psalm 52

Why do you boast, O mighty one, of mischief done against the godly?

All day long you are plotting destruction.

Your tongue is like a sharp razor; you worker of treachery.

You love evil more than good

and lying more than speaking the truth.

You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

But God will break you down forever;

He will snatch and tear you from your tent;

he will uproot you from the land of the living.

The righteous will see and fear and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,

"See the one who would not take refuge in God

but trusted in abundant riches and sought refuge in wealth!"

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.

I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

I will thank you forever because of what you have done.

***In the presence of the faithful I will proclaim your name,
for it is good.***

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Amos 8:1-12

pg. 801

SPECIAL MUSIC

Old Rugged Cross

Jim Simpson

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:38-42

pg. 67

MEDITATION

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.

**STEWARDSHIP INVITATION WITH STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH
SPECIAL OFFERING DEDICATION**

Bless and strengthen the work of our denomination and the Illinois South Conference, O Lord. For as you are the head of the church, the whole church, we serve as your disciples in all that we do. May our special offerings show that our ministries are a priority in our lives as we focus on the promise and hope you give to all. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision*

***RESPONSE³** *“Father, I Adore You”* #143

***Father, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.
Jesus, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.
Spirit, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.***

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION²**

Loving God, like baskets of summer fruit, you fill our lives to overflowing. May the offering we return to you this day reflect our gratitude for your many blessings. May they show our commitment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Through your goodness and the sharing of these gifts, may the world come to know the richness of your love. Amen.

***HYMN** *“Lord, Speak to Me”* #593

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *We Are God’s People*

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