

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

August 10, 2025

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

2901 Nameoki Road

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

9<sup>th</sup> 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

***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

\*RESPONSE

***“Seek Ye First”***

#349

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds  
from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice;  
rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Chorale by Bach*

*Performed by Sarah Haven*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER <sup>2</sup>

From the rising to the setting sun,

***God summons us.***

In the perfect beauty all around us,

***God brightens our hearts.***

When we worship with acts of love and mercy,

***God is pleased to give us the kingdom.***

Come! Let justice and righteousness be our worship.

Let us unite in prayer:

***When our prayers and devotions do not lead to works of love and justice, we long to return to your ways, O Lord. Wash us with your grace and mercy and help us store up treasure in heaven where neither thief nor moth destroy. Remove the selfish rebellion in our hearts and transform our deeds into acts of righteousness. Strengthen us and give us the kingdom we treasure above all else. Amen.***

\*HYMN

***“We Have Come to Join in Worship”***

#647

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Selected Verses from Psalm 33  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

***Praise the Lord with the lyre;***

***make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.***

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

***For the word of the Lord is upright,***

***and all his work is done in faithfulness***

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

***The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.***

From where he sits enthroned

he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

***He who fashions the hearts of them all,***

***and observes all their deeds.***

A king is not saved by his great army;

a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

***Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,***

***on those who hope in his steadfast love,***

To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

***Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.***

***Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.***

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

### **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

pg. 211

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Gigue by Bach*

*Performed by Sarah Haven*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 12:32-40

pg. 70

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\*HYMN

***“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”***

#519

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

*Etude #106*

\*RESPONSE

***“I Love to Tell the Story”***

Vs. 3 #560

***I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
‘twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.  
I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We thank you for the promise of your Kingdom, O Lord, and choose to share it with others. Through these gifts of treasure, may the joyful truth of your love and mercy be offered. For by faith we live and serve all our days in your name. Amen.***

\*HYMN

***“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”***

#590

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*How Firm a Foundation*

<sup>1</sup>“Seek Ye First”. Hymn #349, Words & Music by Karen Lafferty (1948- ) © 1972 Maranatha! Music (Admin. The Copyright Company)

<sup>2</sup>Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2025 Edition. Copyright © 2024 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

We thank Kiki Cochran for serving as liturgist and Mike Seibold for serving as greeter.

The altar vases are given in loving memory of Annette Stevenor by St John Sunday School.