

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



March 22, 2026

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.

5th Sunday in Lent (A)

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 ***“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”***

Vs. 1 #250

***Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones... Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.” Vss. 1 & 5

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Dry Bones

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER²

Cry out to God.

God listens to us.

Hope in God.

God forgives us.

Wait for God.

God's love is faithful.

Let us pray:

Come, Spirit of God. We wait for your presence. We trust in your abiding promises. Breathe the breath of your power into us this day, that we may experience the power of new life, the promise of forgiveness, and the blessing of community.

Amen.

*HYMN

“Gather Us In”

Vss. 1, 2, & 4 #649

*LENTEN INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me, if you seek me with all your heart.

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

We cry to you, O God. It is so easy to be overwhelmed with all that is going on. It is so hard to see any hope. Everywhere we look, we see struggles and loss. We feel we have no hope. We feel we have failed at keeping our trust in you and honoring you. But where we see death and despair, you breathe new life and hope. Where we see failure, your forgiving love changes everything. Forgive us when we let our faith die and bury it. Forgive us when we deny your power to bring forth new life, new hope, and new beginnings. Be with us and teach us to place our trust in your faithful love. Amen.

LENTEN ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 3:17

Believe the good news! God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON 2 Timothy 2:14-17a, 4:6-8 pg. 200
SPECIAL MUSIC Vega David W. Ekstrand

CONFIRMAND'S PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION Brayden Fischer and Noah's Ark
SONG **"Arky, Arky"** Insert
Everyone sings with Brayden and the Sunday School
GOSPEL READING From John 11:1-45 pg. 98
MEDITATION *A Prayerful Meditation* Based on John 11:1-44
Reflections from Our Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN **"Softly and Tenderly"** #348

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 *Awesome God*

*RESPONSE **"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**
Vss. 1 & 4 #261

***When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride***

***Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Spirit of God, you breathe new life into the lifeless places of daily living. We are so grateful for the power of your life-giving love. We bring these gifts, praying that they will breathe new life into barren places in our world. We bring our lives, filled with the promise of new life, ready to serve all your creation. Amen.

*HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

#559

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

¹“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” Words: James Germerian (1947-)
Music: William H. Havergal (1793-1870). CCLI License #133401

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