

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

April 5, 2026

Easter Day (A)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

2901 Nameoki Road

Granite City, IL 62040

E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com

(618) 877-6060

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc

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.



**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

\*EASTER SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL HYMN

***“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”***

#288

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN From Psalm 118 & Matthew 28

O give thanks to the Lord,  
For he is good;  
His steadfast love  
Endures forever!

***O give thanks to the Lord,  
For he is good;  
His steadfast love  
Endures forever!***

(Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.)

He is not here;  
He has been raised!  
Go quickly and tell others  
He has been raised!  
Alleluia!!

***He is not here;  
He has been raised!  
Go quickly and tell others  
He has been raised!  
Alleluia!!***

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER<sup>1</sup>

The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. Christ is risen!

***Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia!***

Yes, this is the day that the Lord has made.

***Let us rejoice and be glad in it!***

This is the day God has filled with new life and hope.

***Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen!***

Let us pray our joy!

***Gracious God, thank you for life and hope, your gifts of Easter. When death and evil seemed to rule the day, you brought forth life abundant. Now, when we are afraid and discouraged, remind us that your love endures forever.***

***Encourage and renew our spirits so we may be Easter people and rejoice in your steadfast love. Amen.***

\*HYMN

***“The Day of Resurrection!”***

#298

\*EASTER INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Adapted from Psalm 51

With the psalmist of old we call on you, O God, seeking mercy according to your steadfast love and abundant mercy. For we know our transgressions and confess that we have done evil in your sight. And so we pray that you blot out our iniquities and restore our spirits with the joy of your salvation.

\*EASTER PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

***Source of resurrection joy, breathe new life into us this holy morning. Open our hardened hearts to the mystery of this day, for we long to touch the depths of your mercy and the vastness of your boundless love. From the darkness of doubt, you have led us into your glorious light of faith and love. Truly, you reveal at Easter that life never ends and love never dies. Amen.***

\*EASTER ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Adapted from Acts 10 & Matthew 28

As the disciple Peter declared: Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ, Lord of all, receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel: Do not be afraid, Jesus has been raised from the dead. Go and tell the world! Mercy and love are alive forever!

***Alleluia!***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

ANTHEM

*Majesty*

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18

pg. 108

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN

*“In the Garden”*

#300

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE

*“The Lord’s Prayer”* (One Amen)

#740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*Jesus Loves Me*

\*RESPONSE *“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”*

Vss. 1 & 2 #289

***Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim for the world’s salvation bled—  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>1</sup>

***God of life and love, we are grateful for your promise of  
resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers  
of evil and injustice. With joy, we bring our gifts to you this day.  
Use our gifts and our lives to proclaim Christ’s triumph over  
death so the world may know holy joy. Amen.***

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contain white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each

