

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

May 17, 2026

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (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

\*RESPONSE ***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*** Vs. 1 #71

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!***

***O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!***

***Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,***

***join me in glad adoration!***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Acts 1:6-14

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Vs. 8)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing*

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

For the music of creation, for the song your Spirit sings,

***For your sound’s divine expression, burst of joy in living things:***

God, our God, the world’s composer, hear us, echoes of your voice;

***Music is your art, your glory, let the human heart rejoice!***

Psalms and symphonies exalt you, drum and trumpet, string and reed,

***Simple melodies acclaim you, tunes that rise from deepest need,***

Hymns of longing and belonging, carols from a cheerful throat,

***Lilt of lullaby and love song catching heaven in a note.***

All the voices of the ages in transcendent chorus meet,

***Worship lifting up the senses, hands that praise, and dancing feet;***

Over discord and division, music speaks your joy and peace,

***Harmony of earth and heaven, song of God that cannot cease!***

Let us unite in prayer:

***We lift our praise and prayers to you, O God, in the words and songs of our hearts. Where language divides your people, music unites our spirits. Where styles and abilities separate your people, moving sounds draw us together. Your Son prayed that we might all be one, and music inspires us to hear and act on his prayer. Receive our worship as we bring glory to you, and offer our thanks for your blessings given to all people and creation, now and forever. Amen.***

\*HYMN

***“When in Our Music God Is Glorified”***

#7

\*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH<sup>2</sup>

In the beginning was the circle.

***God made the world round, floated a sun to shine light around our days and hung a moon and many stars to brighten each night.***

All creatures had their place in the circle of life.

***All seasons came round in their appointed times. All creation danced in a circle of joy.***

In the beginning was the tapestry.

***Jesus, the great weaver, wove together a rich and diverse fabric. All colors, all sizes and shapes went into the needlework.***

Cultures and traditions were woven in like gold and silver threads.

***Each variation contributed to a strong and beautiful whole.***

In the beginning was music.

***The Holy Spirit conducts a glorious sound using the songs of the birds, the music of the mountains and streams, the harmony of the woods,***

The chorus of frogs and crickets and the trumpets of praise and drums of glory for the depths of humanity.

***The orchestra needs all of us to make a great melody of praise.***

From the beginning to now,

**God uses all of us to create joy and beauty, hope and compassion.**

\*RESPONSE<sup>3</sup>                    **“Spirit of the Living God”**                    #492

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, move among us all;**

**make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:**

**humble, caring, selfless, sharing.**

**Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.**

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON                    1 Peter 5:6-11                    pg. 221

ANTHEM                    *Morning Has Broken*                    Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON                    John 17:1-11                    pg. 105

MEDITATION                    Karen Gaines

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN                    **“Sing a New Church”**                    #577

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                    *Sing, Sing a Song*

\*RESPONSE **“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”** Vss. 1 & 4 #96

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise.**

**The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

**To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and  
heaven.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***The financial gifts we bring to the altar, O Lord, are united to  
serve beyond what we do alone. We also offer gifts of time and  
talent as faithful disciples. Our varied gifts differ, but all  
celebrate your love and glorify you over all the earth. In each  
new day may we praise you, forever and ever. Amen.***

\*HYMN                      ***“When We All Get to Heaven”***                      #525

\*POSTLUDE              *The Church’s One Foundation*

<sup>1</sup>The Call to Worship portion is from the hymn *“For the Music of Creation”*, words by Shirley Erena Murray, © 1992 by Hope publishing Company. Reprinted by permission of CCLI License #133401.

<sup>2</sup>Adapted from *Sourcebook of Worship Resources, Volume 2*. Copyright © 1996 by Communication Resources, Inc.

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We thank Carol Relleke for serving as liturgist.