**St. John United Church of Christ**

***“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”***

September 27, 2020 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Karla J. Frost Organist: Ritch Alexander

9:30 Worship (618) 877-6060

2901 Nameoki Rd. Granite City, IL 62040

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**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

**To follow safety guidelines in the Sanctuary**

**properly mask, keep social distance and do not sing.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

“[Moses] called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?” (Exodus 17:7)

PRELUDE *I Love Thy Kingdom Lord* Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Come, now is the time to worship, with response and praise.

***We gather to give glory to God!***

Come, now is the time to worship, with music and prayer.

 ***We gather in the name of Jesus!***

 Come, now is the time to worship, with scripture and message. ***We gather with the Spirit’s power!***

Come, now is the time to worship, for offerings and blessings.

 ***We gather to worship One God; Father, Son and Spirit.***

 Let us pray.

***Spirit of God, work your power within us, so that we willingly open our hearts and give our lives to Jesus. May we bow before him in awe and call on his name for wisdom. May we each commit ourselves to obedient and faithful service, and also join with others to cover the earth with his love. Spirit of God, make us***

-2-

***one in mind and purpose, as we worship together. Amen.***

HYMN *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”*

*All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;*

*bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;*

*bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race, ye ransomed from the fall,*

*hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all; hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,*

*to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;*

*to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!*

*O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!*

*We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;*

*we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!*

RESPONSIVE READING (From Hymn *May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*)

 May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day,

 ***By his love and power controlling all I do and say.***

May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,

 ***So that all may see I triumph only through his power.***

May the peace of God, my Father, rule my life in everything,

 ***That I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.***

May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea,

 ***Him exalting, self abasing—this is victory.***

May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,

 ***Looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.***

SOLO  *Have Thine Own Way* Stebbins

EPISTLE READING Philippians 2:1-13

GOSPEL READING Matthew 21:23-32

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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***

-3-

***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.***

HYMN *“We Are Called to Be God’s People”*

Words: Thomas A. Jackson. Music: Franz Joseph Haydn Words © 1975, Broadman Press (Admin. Genevox Music Group) Lyrics reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

*We are called to be God’s people, showing by our lives his grace, one in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.*

*Let us show how he has changed us, and remade us as his own, let us share our life together as we shall around his throne.*

*We are called to be God’s servants, working in his world today; taking his own task upon us, all his sacred words obey.*

*Let us rise, then, to his summons, dedicate to him our all,*

*that we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now his call.*

*We are called to be God’s prophets, speaking for the truth and right,*

*standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil things to light.*

*Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill,*

*that the world may know the blessing of the doing of God’s will.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Sing a New Song* Broughton

**Please remain seated until an usher dismisses each pew beginning from the back of the Sanctuary.**

Welcome to St. John UCC! This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The bulletins are given in loving memory of **George Few**’s September 24th birthday by the family.

The altar vases are given in loving memory of the September 30th birthday of **Wallace Roethemeyer** by his family.

-4-

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please call Denise McGee at 618-920-5846. To give bulletins, please call the church office at 877-6060. Available dates are Oct. 4 & 18.

Our September **Mission of the Month** is monetary donations for Community Care. Please clearly designate any gifts.

Our October 18 Carry-Out **Sausage Dinner** is being organized by Donna Brandes, Bob and Nancy Jacobs, and Dave and Karen Gaines. Please call Donna Brandes to volunteer. Today from 1:00-3:00 tickets will be available in our elevator entrance.

The **Nut and Candy Sale**, the **Brotherhood Meal Sale**, and the **Halloween Party** will not be held this year. Look for them in a great new 2021!

Next Sunday, October 4, is **World Communion Sunday**. Please bring bags of flour which will be given to the Community Care Center and to the Salvation Army. Also, for those participating at home through Zoom, remember to have your communion elements prepared. Those attending worship in the sanctuary will receive pre-packaged communion elements to safely partake.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of **Charles “Chuck” Duckworth Sr.** who died on Monday, September 21, 2020. A funeral was held on Saturday, September 26, at Irwin Chapel. May the peace and comfort that comes from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

-5-

**Philippians 2:1-13**

**2**If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, **2**make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. **4**Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. **5**Let the same mind be in you that was[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A1-13&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-29380a)] in Christ Jesus,

**6**who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, **7**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, **8**he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **9**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, **10**so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11**and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **12**Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13**for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Matthew 21:23-32**

**23**When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” **24**Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. **25**Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ **26**But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a

prophet.” **27**So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. **28**“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ **29**He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. **30**The father[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A23-32&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23855a)] went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. **31**Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32**For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.