**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

October 11, 2020 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Karla J. Frost Organist: Ritch Alexander

10:30 Worship (618) 877-6060

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**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

**To follow safety guidelines**

**please keep social distance, masks up, and do not sing.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to….” Matt. 22:2a

PRELUDE *Meditation* Jacobs

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Psalm 106 & Philippians 4 Adapted

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

***Praise the Lord!***

For his steadfast love endures forever.

***Praise the Lord!***

Happy are those who observe justice,

***Who do righteousness at all times.***

Rejoice in the Lord always;

***Again I will say, Rejoice.***

Let us keep on doing the things that we have learned,

***For the God of peace is with us all.***

Let us pray:

***We release our worries to you in prayer, O God, and make our requests known, as we give thanks for your steadfast love. Help us focus on whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise; as we keep our hearts and minds on Jesus. Amen.***

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\*HYMN ***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”***

***Rejoice, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks and sing;***

***your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek raise high your free, exulting song, God’s wondrous praises speak.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***With voice as full and strong as ocean’s surging praise,***

***send forth the hymns the saints have loved,***

***the psalms of ancient days.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Yes, on through life’s long path, still chanting as you go,***

***from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, (rejoice) rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

LITANY1 Hymn for Waiting in Faith: *When Noah Sent a Dove*  When Noah sent a dove to fly across the ebbing sea

***To seek a sign of life’s return, he waited patiently.***

Not knowing if she’d find a thing, he waited patiently,

***And prayed the dove along her way***

***toward unknown mystery.***

And as she winged her way on prayer

toward unknown mystery,

***Already you had freed the land and planted olive trees.***

Already, as she circled high, you’d planted olive trees,

***Already made the branch she’d take,***

***its green and silver leaves:***

Already made new earth a jewel of green and silver leaves,

***While Noah still in patience prayed,***

***still scanned the cloud and breeze.***

Our patient prayers are like the dove

that scans through clouds and breeze

***For signs that in foreseeing love***

***you’re planting olive trees.***

We hope she’ll bring a branch, but more,

we ask for faith to know

***That while we’re praying unaware,***

***the trees you’re planting grow.***

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 32:1-14

SOLO  *The Promised Land* Hymn Arrangement

EPISTLE READING Philippians 4:1-9

MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD’S PRAYER & RESPONSE

***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 & BLESSING

***Our gifts are signs of our thanks to you, O God, for the blessings you have given each of us. Now, as co-workers, we put our gifts together to accomplish praiseworthy ministries. Help us continue working together, doing the things you have called us to do, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

SONG PLAYED ON PIANO TO SING OR READ AT HOME

***“Take Time to Be Holy”***

***Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;***

***abide in him always, and feed on his Word.***

***Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak; forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.***

***Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;***

***spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.***

***By looking to Jesus, like him you shall be;***

***your friends in your conduct his likeness will see.***

***Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,***

***and run not before him, whatever betide.***

***In joy or in sorrow, still follow your Lord,***

***and looking to Jesus, still trust in his Word.***

BENEDICTION

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POSTLUDE *Grand Choeur* Roussau

1Written by Mary Luti for *EMERGE: Blessings & Rituals for Unsheltering* from the STILLSPEAKING WRITERS’ GROUP of the UCC. ©2020 United Church of Christ.

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

“Oh Lord…we will exalt you, we will praise your name.” (From Isaiah 25:1) Welcome, friends, as we gather to exalt and praise God.

The bulletins are given in loving memory of the birthday on October 13th of **Lois Winter** by Sandy & Judy Buchheit & Janet Kies.

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. 18, Nov. 15 and Nov. 29.

Our October **Mission of the Month** is flour for the Community Care and Salvation Army pantries, and the United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need Offering. Please clearly designate any gifts or use the special NIN envelopes.

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.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

Loretta Cook, Valara Schorfheide, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Shirley Thompson, Mary Lee Krohne, and Richard & Ruth Buer.

**AT HOME**

Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Olen Hermes, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Dick Oliver, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Don Young.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 32:1-14**

**32**When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” **2**Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” **3**So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. **4**He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+32%3A1-14&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-2443a)] and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” **5**When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.”  **6**They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. **7**The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at

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once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; **8**they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” **9**The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. **10**Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” **11**But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? **12**Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. **13**Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” **14**And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

**Philippians 4:1-9**

**1**Therefore, my brothers and sisters,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A1-9&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-29427a)] whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. **2**I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. **3**Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A1-9&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-29429b)] help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. **4**Rejoice[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A1-9&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-29430c)] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A1-9&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-29430d)] **5**Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6**Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8**Finally, beloved,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A1-9&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-29434e)] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A1-9&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-29434f)] these things. **9**Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.