**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

November 22, 2020 Reign of Christ Sunday

Harvest Home Totenfest

9:30 a.m. Worship (618) 877-6060

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

[E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com) Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

“I, myself, will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down,” says the Lord God. “I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.” Ezekiel 34:15-16

PRELUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* Karg-Elert

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Call from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

***Worship the Lord with gladness;***

Come into his presence with singing.

***Know that the Lord is God.***

It is he that made us, and we are his;

***We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

***Give thanks to him, bless his name.***

For the Lord is good;

***His steadfast love endures forever,***

And his faithfulness to all generations.

Let us pray together.

***Jesus Christ, our Lord and King, we worship you with gladness. You are over all things, head of the church, and Savior of all. You have compassion on all who suffer, and judge all who ignore their needs. Open our eyes and***

-2-

***heart to serve faithfully in your name. Grant us the wisdom of the ages, as taught by the saints of each generation. May we rejoice to remember their ministry and offer our own, as your disciples today. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*** Verses 1 & 4

***Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.***

***All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.***

***God, our maker does provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.***

***Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home, gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in your presence to abide.***

***Come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.***

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:15-23

SOLO *We Gather Together* Fisk

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:31-46

REFLECTION



**LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE**

As baptized believers in Christ, we are also baptized into Christ’s death. In doing so, we are united with Christ through his resurrection, so that we might share in eternal life with him. Let us now remember those brothers and sisters who have been called home this past year, and who are now sharing in the power of that eternal life…..(Naming and Tolling)

-3-

*Bernice Willaredt*

*(June 24, 1920 - December 21, 2019)*

*Mildred L. Lipinski*

*(July 29, 1931 – March 1, 2020)*

*Char Lee Baldwin*

*(March 5, 1945 - March 4, 2020)*

*Margaret Berry Gagliano*

*(September 7, 1938 - March 21, 2020)*

*Robert “Bob” Abraham Meszaros, Sr.*

*(January 29, 1948 – May 7, 2020)*

*Lois K. Hollenbeck*

*(September 5, 1923 – June 4, 2020)*

*Virginia Rose Kovach*

*(December 5, 1923 – June 19, 2020)*

*Muriel Kratz*

*(July 22, 1925- June 28, 2020)*

*Eunice “Dennis” Steele*

*(September 30, 1937 - July 21, 2020)*

*Robert “Bob” Creighton Petersen*

*(June 17, 1941 - August 30, 2020)*

*Chuck Duckworth, Sr.*

*(May 28, 1960 - September 21, 2020)*

*Janet Bernadine Frost*

*(May 23, 1931- September 25, 2020)*

*Richard “Dick” Cobb Oliver*

*(November 18, 1929 – November 6, 2020)*

Let us now have a moment of silence to remember all those who have died of Covid19 and our loved ones who have been called home, not only this past year, but also in the years past…..

-4-

O God, this hour revives in us memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. What happiness we shared when they walked among us! What joy, when, loving and loved, we lived our lives together!

***Their memory is a blessing forever.***

Months or years may have passed, yet we feel near to them. Our hearts yearn for them. Though the bitter grief may have softened, a duller pain abides, for the place where once they stood is empty now forever. The links of life are broken, but the links of love and longing cannot break.

***Their souls are bound up in ours forever.***

We see them now with the eyes of memory, their faults forgiven, their virtues grown larger. Thus does goodness live, and weakness fade from sight. We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

***Their memory is a blessing forever.***

And we remember, as well, the men and women who but yesterday were part of our congregation and community. To all who cared for us and labored for the well-being of our people and of humanity, we pay tribute. May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our people and our faith, for now the task is ours.

***Their souls are bound up in ours forever.***

Merciful God, let the memory never fade of the faithful and upright who have given their lives to hallow your name. Even in death they continue to speak to us of faith and courage. Their deeds endure, and their sacrifices will not be forgotten. Their souls are bound up in the bonds of eternal life. No evil shall touch them; they are at peace.

***We will remember, and never forget them.***

In gratitude for all the blessings our loved ones have brought to us, we dedicate ourselves anew to the sacred faith for which they lived and died, and to the tasks they have bequeathed to us. Let them be remembered as a blessing, Eternal God, together with the righteous of all peoples, and let us say: Amen.

***Amen.***

-5-

HYMN ***“For All the Saints”*** Verses 1, 3 & 5

***For all the saints who from their labors rest,***

***who thee by faith before the world confessed,***

***thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***O blest communion, fellowship divine!***

***We feebly struggle; they in glory shine.***

***Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day:***

***the saints triumphant rise in bright array;***

***the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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

***With faith in you, O Lord, we offer our gifts, as have the saints of every generation. We pledge our faithfulness to you for all our days, and choose to serve your people in every way, whether known and unknown. Bless our discipleship, and bless the lives we touch, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

HYMN MEDLEY ***“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”***

***My country, ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing: land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims’ pride,***

***from every mountainside let freedom ring!***

***Our father’s God, to thee, Author of liberty, to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King!***

(Piano transition)

***“America, the Beautiful”***

***O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,***

-6-

***for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee,***

***and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!***

***O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed his grace on thee,***

***and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *O Lord, How Manifold* West

Welcome to worship Reign of Christ Sunday. Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17). May the Holy Spirit strengthen us for service in the kingdom.

The bulletins are given in celebration of the 61st wedding anniversary of Cliff and Marilyn Robertson by Robin and Steve Totten.

On this Totenfest Sunday the yellow roses are given in honor of the memory of those who died during the past liturgical year.

If you would like to place flowers in the background of Zoom worship, and pick them up Monday, please call Sharon O’Toole at 314-420-1548.

Our November Mission of the Month is support for the vital programs at **Community Care**. Monetary and non-perishable food gifts please.

Council has voted to have Zoom only worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Call the office at 877-6060 for Zoom information.

Totenfest will be celebrated on November 22 during 9:30 a.m. Zoom worship and during our outdoor worship, near the flagpole, at 1:00 p.m.

Our offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27.

Sunday, November 29, is the first Sunday of Advent, and a candle will be lit. It is also a “Fifth Sunday”, and traditionally our cash plate offering has been given to a project or program. The local Salvation Army is to receive it this time. Therefore, please mail or drop-off clearly identified gifts for this worthy cause.

-7-

﻿Although in-person Sunday morning worship services are being placed on hold, the scrip program will continue. Orders will be submitted to the scrip company on December 6th and 13th. Not a problem if you do not have an order form as you can just list the cards you are purchasing. Please include your check payable to St. John UCC with your order. You can mail your order and check to the church or drop it off through the mail slot at the office. I will go to the office two or more times each week to pick up orders. Another option is to mail your order to my house (2317 Cleveland Blvd., Granite City 62040) or call me 618 451-1968. **Date change**: Last day to order for delivery before Christmas is December 6th.  Orders will still be submitted on December 13th, but remembering difficulties with UPS delivery last year, suggestion is to order early. Arrangements will be made for delivery of gift cards after shipment is received at church. Thank you for your support. If you have already ordered, I will be contacting you personally to arrange delivery.

Sending good wishes for a safe Thanksgiving, Betty Meszaros

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

Loretta Cook, 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, Cliff Robertson, Valara Schorfheide, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Moro St. John's UCC of Midway, Rev. Lori (Wayne) Schafer, Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Michael Cassady

Retired Pastors Rev. Chris and Lena Edwards.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

**15**I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason **16**I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. **17**I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, **18**so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, **19**and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. **20**God put this

-8-

power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21**far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. **22**And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, **23**which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Matthew 25:31-46**

31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ 45Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”