**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

January 10, 2021 1st Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of Christ

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)

PRELUDE *God’s Great Family* Combs

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Adapted from Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;

***Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;***

In his temple all say, “Glory!”

***And worship the Lord in holy splendor.***

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

***The God of glory thunders over mighty waters.***

The voice of the Lord is powerful;

***The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.***

Let us pray together.

***We give glory and honor to you, O Lord, Creator of all that is good. From the beginning of time into eternity, you are Lord of all that is, and Lord of all the peoples. Bless us with your peace as we worship you. May we hear your voice and feel your Spirit, as we renew our vows of baptism and service, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“When Jesus Came to Jordan”***

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***When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,***

***he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one.***

***He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.***

***He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,***

***for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.***

***So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,***

***the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.***

***Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;***

***this very day invade us, and every bondage break.***

***Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:***

***to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.***

RESPONSIVE READING From *“Come, Be Baptized”*

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Come as a child, come to the waters;

***To the family of God come, sons and daughters.***

Come to the river, the Lord, the life-giver;

***Wash in the love that is sent from above.***

Come, be baptized in the name of the Father;

***Come, be baptized in the name of the Son;***

Come, be baptized in the name of the Spirit;

***Come, be baptized in love.***

EPISTLE LESSON Acts 19:1-7

SOLO *Portrait of Peace* Prim

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:4-11

MEDITATION AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

Do you desire to renew your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

***I do.***

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

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***I do.***

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

***I do.***

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

***I promise, with the help of God.***

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering Christ’s mission in all the world?

***I promise, with the help of God.***

Prayer of Blessing

Water of Renewal

Unison Prayer

***Gracious God, you have filled the world with life by giving the gift of Jesus. Bless us with renewed spirits of joy and commitment. Give us strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering, the peace of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one family. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Gather Us In”*** (Compilation of Verses 3 & 4)

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***Here we receive new life in the waters;***

***here we receive the bread of new birth;***

***here you shall call your sons and your daughters,***

***call us anew to be salt for the earth.***

***Gather us in and hold us forever;***

***gather us in and make us your own;***

***gather us in, all peoples together,***

***fire of love in our flesh and our bone.***

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.***

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***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

***As baptized sons and daughters, we rejoice to be united with all your family, O God. And as family, we care for one another. Bless our offerings with your powerful Spirit, so they may uplift what pleases you, as we serve in the name of your beloved Son. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”***  Verses 1, 2 & 3

***Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!***

***Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.***

***Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!***

***God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

***Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,***

***casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,***

***which wert and art, and evermore shall be.***

***Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,***

***though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,***

***only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,***

***perfect in power, in love and purity.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Victory in Jesus* Hartford

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1): sky, waters, ground; sun, moon, stars; plants, animals people. Then God rested. So, welcome to this time for rest and worship.

The flowers are given in loving memory of the January 13, 1909 birth of his father, **Royal Preston**, by Revs. Charles Preston and Karla Frost.

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If you would like to place flowers in the background of Zoom worship, and pick them up Monday, please call Donna Streid at 877-7767. If you would like to sponsor the bulletins please call the church office at 877-6060. Upcoming available dates are January 31, February 7 and 28.

In January our Mission of the Month is a **“Pick-a-Mission”** option. Everyone is asked to seriously think about all the mission projects we have supported in the past, as well as new ones or your personal favorites, and pick one, or more, for extra gifts. Send your donations directly to the organization, or, send them to the church office if we have directly supported them in the past, clearly identified so the counters can properly credit them and forward them in February. Here are some ideas, but the options are limitless. Illinois South Conference UCC programs like DuBois Center, Hunger Action Fund, Hoyleton Ministries, and Kindercottage. Granite City programs like Community Care, Good Samaritan House, APA, Bread of Life for when they begin serving again, Re-building Together, and TWIGS. National/International programs like Heifer Project, Souper Bowl of Caring, Habitat for Humanity, USO, Salvation Army, support and service organizations, and the many various medical support associations. Many of us have charitable organizations that are important to us. In January let us help them begin the new year with our extra donation of resources, or our time volunteered.

**Council** will meet on Thursday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Call Karen Orr at 618-558-4192 for Zoom information or input.

**OUR PRAYERS**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Olen P. Hermes** who died on Wednesday, December 30, 2020. A funeral service was held on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at Irwin Chapel. May the peace and comfort that comes from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Cliff Robertson, Valara Schorfheide, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Don Young.

**In a Hospital**

Dolores Zeugin, Gateway Regional Medical Center in Granite City

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**Illinois South Conference**

Staunton St. Paul UCC, Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins; Stone Church St. Peter’s UCC; Retired Pastor Rev. P. Jerry Bennett

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 19:1-7**

**19**While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. **2**He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” **3**Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” **4**Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” **5**On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6**When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— **7**altogether there were about twelve of them.

**Mark 1:4-11**

**4**John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5**And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6**Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7**He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8**I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**9**In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10**And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11**And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”