**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

February 28, 2021 Second Sunday in Lent

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

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Romans 4:13-25

No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God…(Romans 4:20)

PRELUDE *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* Crueger

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Adapted from *Worship Services for Lent* produced by the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership © 1992.

Lent is traditionally the season in which we prepare for the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this second Sunday of Lent, the Hebrew Scripture lesson shares God’s promises to Abram. We are invited to trust in these promises and praise God for the ways hope and renewal are offered through the ages. Let us join together in expressing our faith in God:

***God of promises, we praise you for the new things you bring. In the scriptures we read of your covenant with Abram. He thought himself a common man living in the desert, but you promised to make him the ancestor of a multitude of nations.***

We join our voices in praising you this day. For the promises you made and kept to our ancestors, we praise your name. For the promises yet to come to us, we open our lives to you. Establish your covenant with us and our children. We know that you are the God who brings new possibilities. Seeking your grace, we worship you this day.

 ***Amen.***

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HYMN ***“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”***

***In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o’er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.***

***When the woes of life o’ertake me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,***

***never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! It glows with peace and joy.***

***When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.***

***Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;***

***peace is there that knows no measure, joys that thro’ all time abide.***

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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Jesus called his followers and said to them, “If any want to become my disciples, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

***For those who want to save their life will lose it and those that lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel will save it.***

God of the cross, you have called us to lose ourselves for your sake. This challenge frightens us.

***Give us the strength we need to pour ourselves out as a living sacrifice for others.***

Christ has told us that those who want to save their life will lose it.

***God of light, help us to look deeply into ourselves and surrender false loyalties to you. Give us a deeper identity with Christ. Take away from us the compulsion to meet our own needs, and help us to trust in your love. Minimize our desire for personal profit, and help us to work for the liberation and empowerment of the marginalized. Holy God, take from us all vain beliefs that***

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***we can save ourselves. Lead us to rely on you, the only source of eternal life. Amen.***

For those things we ought to have done that we have left undone, forgive us, O God, and restore a right spirit within us.

***For all those things we ought not to have done that we have done, forgive us, O God, and restore a right spirit within us.***

Friends in Christ, hear and believe the good news! “If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” May we trust the mercy of God: In Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven.

 ***Thanks be to God.***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

SOLO *Sweet Hour of Prayer* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:31-38

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE 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.***

RESPONSE *Meditation* Henning

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

 ***Holy One, you bless us in often unexpected, and even challenging, ways. You call us to use our blessings for the sake of others, not only ourselves. May the offerings we give from blessings multiply and bring you honor and glory, as we faithfully stand with Jesus in all that we say and do. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”***

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***Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand—***

***the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land,***

***a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,***

***from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.***

***Upon that cross of Jesus my eye at times can see***

***the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;***

***and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess—***

***the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.***

***I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;***

***I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face,***

***content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,***

***my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Be Strong in the Lord* Parry

Welcome to worship. Anne Lamott has said “Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” May this time of worship re-boot us for life.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, 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. The next available dates are April 25, and May 2, 16, & 30.

Please use the Meeting ID: **842 0206 5327** and Passcode: **384480** on the **Wednesdays of Lent** at noon to Zoom in for a 15-minute devotional service. It will be a simple service of reading with scripture and prayer. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 1.

Our February Mission of the Month is financial donations to be divided between our **Brotherhood and Evening Guild**. Each of these organizations contribute gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the work of the church and to missions. Due to Covid19, though, they have not been able to hold their primary fundraisers, including the Spring Meat Sale this year. Our Mission of the Month gifts will give them the opportunity to continue serving in the ways they choose. Please clearly mark your gifts for Mission of the Month.

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**Sunday School for children** **in the classroom by the nursery** resumed today. Everyone enters through the elevator entrance and follows all Covid19 procedures, including wearing masks at all times. No snacks are offered. Older youth are encouraged to attend worship in the Sanctuary or on Zoom.

In the envelope packets there are special Lenten envelopes. Coin folders are available on request. This year the Council has designated our **Lenten and Maundy Thursday** offerings to be for the Illinois South Conference DuBois Center and all its camp programs. Generations have been blessed to experience the wonders of DuBois and grow in faith. Our support will help continue offering this mission year to year.

The **Easter Lily** order deadline will be Monday, March 15. Order forms will be in the Herald and are in this bulletin. The cost is $12 per plant.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Baptism, Jasper Lynn Meyer, 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Zoom Wednesday Devotional Service, noon

 842 0206 5327 384480

Thursday: Cemetery Committee at Maryville Chapel, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: Sunday School for children

 In-person and Zoom Worship with Communion and Noisy Offering, 9:30 a.m.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Loretta Cook, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, Karen Luddeke, and Nadine Ryan.

**At Home**

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

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**Illinois South Conference**

Belleville Christ UCC, Pastor Jon (Lisa) Tinge, Supply Pastor; Belleville Concordia UCC, Rev. Joan Mier; Retired Pastor Donald (Anne) Sabbert.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

**17**When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. **2**And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” **3**Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, **4**“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **5**No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **6**I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. **7**I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

**15**God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **16**I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**Mark 8:31-38**

**31**Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32**He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33**But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

**34**He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. **36**For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? **37**Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? **38**Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Please order a lily for me. Plants will cost **$12.00** each. Fill in the lines below exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or

Miss, etc.) **DEADLINE** to order a lily is March 15, 2021.

(Please attach payments to this form and place either in the offering plate or bring/mail it to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY !!!!

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# OF LILIES ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(Make checks payable to: St. John United Church of Christ)

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