**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

March 28, 2021 Palm/Passion Sunday

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

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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

**To follow safety guidelines, please**

**keep social distance, mask up, speak softly, and no singing.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Philippians 2:5-11

Being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend… (Phil. 2:7b-10a)

PRELUDE *Ye Sons and Daughters of the King* Wehmeyer

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.

Hosannah!

***Hosannah in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Holy One!***

Blessed is Jesus who comes in the name of God.

 ***Jesus came into the Holy City riding on a donkey.***

Jesus came into the Holy City with humility.

 ***Jesus came into the Holy City ready to pour out his life.***

Let us join together in prayer:

***God in Christ, we recall how you entered Jerusalem and were proclaimed to be the Messiah. We remember that several days later you were abandoned and rejected. There are times, O Lord, when we also struggle to be true to you. We proclaim you as our Savior, then reject you***

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***when we are put to the test. When called to bear witness, may we trust in your love, O God. You are our hope and salvation. May we stand firm in the face of Jesus’ suffering, crucifixion, and death this Holy Week. Like his disciples, we are often weak and frightened during times of trouble. Strengthen our faith to endure, we pray. Amen.***

When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

 ***Thanks be to God! Amen!***

HYMN ***“All Glory, Laud and Honor”*** Verses 1, 3, 4 & 5

***All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,***

***to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

***You are the King of Israel, and David’s royal Son,***

***now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and blessed One!***

***All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,***

***to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

***The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;***

***our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present:***

***All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,***

***to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

***To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.***

***All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,***

***to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

***As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,***

***for you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!***

***All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,***

***to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLE**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 119:105

 Philippians 1:27

 John 3:16

PRESENTATION

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SONG ***“Thy Word”***

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***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

***When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,***

***still you’re there right beside me.***

***And nothing will I fear as long as you are near.***

***Please be near me to the end.***

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

LITANY OF WISDOM BASED ON PROVERBS 3

 My children, says the Lord, do not forget my teaching,

 but let your heart keep my commandments;

 ***For length of days and years of life they will give us.***

 Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you, says the Lord.

 ***Inscribe them on the tablet of our heart!***

 Then, O Lord, shall we find favor in your sight,

 ***And good repute among the people.***

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

 ***And do not rely on your own understanding.***

In all your ways acknowledge him,

 ***And he will make straight your paths.***

Honor the Lord and turn away from evil.

 ***It will be healing and refreshment for your body.***

Keep sound wisdom and prudence,

 ***And they shall be life for your soul.***

Then you shall walk on your way securely,

 ***For the Lord will be our confidence.***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 50:4-9a

SOLO *The Palms* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSONS Mark 11:1-11 & 14:1-11

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.***

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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.***

RESPONSE *Chime Response*

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

 ***Lord, help us know what is truly valuable, and be willing to share it. May our gifts from the heart be given for service in your name. Keep us committed and faithful, we pray, now and forever. Amen.***

HYMN ***“The Old Rugged Cross”***  Verses 1, 2 & 4

***On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,***

***the emblem of suffering and shame;***

***and I love that old cross, where the dearest and best***

***for a world of lost sinners was slain.***

***Refrain So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross,***

 ***till my trophies at last I lay down;***

 ***I will cling to the old rugged cross,***

 ***and exchange it some day for a crown.***

***O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,***

***has a wondrous attraction for me;***

***for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above***

***to bear it to dark Calvary.***

***Refrain***

***To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,***

***its shame and reproach gladly bear;***

***then he’ll call me some day to my home far away,***

***where his glory forever I’ll share.***

***Refrain***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Alleluia, Amen!* Nordman

Welcome to worship as we join a worldwide and timeless procession of the faithful shouting to Jesus, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9, NIV)

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The **bulletins** are given in Celebration of my wonderful family and their birthdays: Mom, Dad, Dave, Andrew, and Kelly from Karen.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, and pick them up Monday, please call Sharon O’Toole at 314-420-1548. If you would like to sponsor the bulletins, please call the church office at 877-6060. The next available bulletin dates are April 25, and May 2, 16, & 30.

Please use the Meeting ID: **842 0206 5327** and Passcode: **384480** on this **Wednesday, March 31,** **at noon** to Zoom in for our last 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,** both in-person and on Zoom. Use the Lenten Meeting ID **842 0206 5327** and Passcode **384480** on Zoom. Communion will be celebrated, so prepare your elements if at home. Individual elements will be available for those in the sanctuary.

On **Easter Sunday** we will continue with both Zoom and in-person worship with Communion at **9:30 a.m.** Use the Sunday Zoom

ID **818 3056 1303** and Passcode **496348**. We will also have an outdoor service with Communion at **11:00 a.m.** which will meet near the flagpole by Pastor Karla’s office entrance. Bring a lawn chair if possible, wear a mask, and follow social distance guidelines.



**Sunday School for children** **in the classroom by the nursery** has resumed. 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.

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**Easter Sunday School** **pre-registration** forms are in the bulletin. Please turn them in **TODAY**, so we can plan appropriately.

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.

Our special Easter offering envelope giving will be placed in the **General Fund** to support our ministries at St. John UCC.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

 Palm/Passion Service

Monday: Al-Anon, 9:30-11:00

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Zoom Wednesday Devotional Service, noon

 842 0206 5327 384480

Thursday: Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion, 7:00 p.m.

 Zoom and In-person

 842 0206 5327 384480

Next Sunday: Sunday School for pre-registered children, 9:30 a.m.

 In-person & Zoom Worship with Communion, 9:30 a.m.

 Outdoor Worship with Communion, 11:00 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.

**Illinois South Conference**

Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd, Rev. Kim (Dr. Aaron Newcomb) Magwire, Carlinville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Katrina Palan, Retired Pastor Rev. Gary and Joyce Kniepkamp, St. Jacob, IL

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**4**The Lord God has given me
    the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
    the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
    wakens my ear
    to listen as those who are taught.
**5**The Lord God has opened my ear,
    and I was not rebellious,
    I did not turn backward.
**6**I gave my back to those who struck me,
    and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
    from insult and spitting.

**7**The Lord God helps me;
    therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
    and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
**8**    he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
    Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
    Let them confront me.
**9**It is the Lord God who helps me;
    who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
    the moth will eat them up.

**Mark 11:1-11 and Mark 14:1-11**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples **2**and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. **3**If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” **4**They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, **5**some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” **6**They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. **7**Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. **8**Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the

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fields. **9**Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!
    Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
**10**    Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

**11**Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2014%3A1-11&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24749a)] by stealth and kill him; **2**for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

**3**While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2014%3A1-11&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24751b)] as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. **4**But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? **5**For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2014%3A1-11&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24753c)] and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. **6**But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. **7**For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. **8**She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. **9**Truly I tell you, wherever the good news[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2014%3A1-11&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24757d)] is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

**10**Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. **11**When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

We know that children 5th grade and younger are excited about Easter for many reasons, and it is vital that they learn why we celebrate this day. **CHRIST IS RISEN!** That’s the lesson taught for all ages. Whether at home or in the church, that’s the lesson to be shared with children, so they know it by heart.

This year, of course, we will teach and celebrate the same message, but a little differently than in previous years. Covid19 safety practices must be followed for the sake of all ages. Therefore, children will need to be pre-registered to attend Sunday School on **Easter Sunday, April 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** This will enable class size location, planning, and preparation, as well as attendance recording. We will not have a traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Pre-filled baskets will be distributed as children leave the Sunday School area with family members. Please do not bring any personal baskets or goodies to Sunday School. No eating or drinking will be allowed to ensure that everyone wears a mask at all times. Enter through the elevator entrance which opens at 9:00 a.m., and then follow directions for classes. No other doors will be unlocked.

Please fill out and return the attached form for any children 5th grade and younger who will attend Easter Sunday School. Older youth will attend worship in the sanctuary. Thanks for your assistance in making this a safe, faith-filled, fun celebration.



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Planning to come for Easter Sunday Sunday School?

Please sign-up so we can plan on you!

**Return this form by Sunday, March 28!!!!**

CHILDREN

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADULT BRINGING CHILD/CHILDREN

NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 HOME PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CELL PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

MAIL OR BRING FORM TO

ST. JOHN U.C.C., 2901 NAMEOKI RD., GRANITE CITY, IL 62040

OR TELEPHONE 618-877-6060 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE

OR EMAIL stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com

**See you Sunday, April 4, at 9:30 a.m.**