**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

March 7, 2021 Third Sunday in Lent

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 1 Corinthians 1:8-25

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Cor. 8:20b)

PRELUDE *Gethsemane* Stickles

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.

Today is the third Sunday of Lent. We continue on our Lenten journey, making time to reflect on our lives.

***We come seeking stillness for our souls, that we may more clearly know God’s presence and more clearly see who God would have us be.***

We come to remember the special relationship with God we have been offered.

**We come** **with hearts newly opened to the Giver of Life.**

We come to hear anew the promises of God and to remember the covenant between God and all creation.

**We come, scared to trust, but trusting; too weary to hope, but hopeful;**

Let us pray:

***God of all generations, of all times and places, we have come this morning to worship you, to offer thanksgiving for the ways you have blessed us, to pray for people and problems that concern us, to confess the frailties that haunt us; to praise you for your presence with us. Turn us toward you that we may see your goodness, trust your providence, accept your pardon, and more fully know***

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***your will and your ways. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.***

***Amen.***

HYMN ***“I Surrender All”***

***All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give;***

***I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.***

***I surrender all, (I surrender all) I surrender all, (I surrender all)***

***all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

***All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at his feet I bow,***

***worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now.***

***I surrender all, (I surrender all) I surrender all, (I surrender all)***

***all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

***All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly thine;***

***may the Holy Spirit fill me, may I know thy power divine.***

***I surrender all, (I surrender all) I surrender all, (I surrender all)***

***all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

***All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to thee;***

***fill me with thy love and power, let thy blessing fall on me.***

***I surrender all, (I surrender all) I surrender all, (I surrender all)***

***all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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God of life, of all life and of each life, we lay our lives before you. We open our lives to you, from whom nothing in us is hidden.

***You are before us; you are behind;***

***you are in the light and in the darkness;***

You see our most public face;

you know the secret thoughts of every heart.

***We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt;***

***we bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow.***

We bring the pride that is in us, and the shame;

we bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance;

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***We bring the hope that is in us, and the despair;***

***we bring the courage that is in us, and the fear.***

God give us grace to walk in the way of Christ.

***Guide us by your Spirit, strengthen us against all evil.***

***In Jesus’ name, Amen.***

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 Exodus 20:1-17

SOLO *Something about That Name* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON John 2:13-22

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Marking March 8, 1871 Storm: *“In remembrance of the terrible storm of March 8, 1871, which destroyed the church and organ of St. John Congregation, a day of prayer and penitence is ordained for all generations by the congregation.”*

***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 *Ah! Holy Jesus* Cruger

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

***How grateful we are, O God, that you receive our gifts of every kind. Keep us from judging others’ gifts, or our own, as unacceptable. Use all our gifts to proclaim the power of your love as we honor you alone. Amen.***

INVITATION TO COMMUNE, AS INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT

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With the psalmist we turn to God, saying: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

***Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.***

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

***Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.”***

As we prepare our hearts and tables for the Sacrament of Holy Communion, may we remember that wherever the Sacrament is celebrated, God is present. All are invited to know Christ in the breaking of the bread and pouring of the cup, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING AND PARTAKING

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***We thank you, O God, for inviting us to know the presence of Christ through this Sacrament, and to receive the gift of spiritual healing. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and empower us for obedience to your commands. Place your Spirit in our hearts to guide us in faithful discipleship, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”***

***Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;***

***Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.***

***Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth’s frame;***

***as heirs of God’s baptismal grace, his word of hope proclaim.***

***Rise up, O saints of God! His kingdom’s task embrace;***

***redress sin’s cruel consequence; give justice larger place.***

***Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;***

***stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.***

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***Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; and quickened by the Spirit’s power, rise up, O saints of God.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *To God All Glory Given* Sawyer

Welcome to worship, whether in person or online! May zeal for God’s house consume us, as it did Jesus (John 2:17), but remember that the Holy Spirit lives in every human heart.

The bulletins are given in loving memory of my niece, Sharon, by Glenda Mitchell.

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.

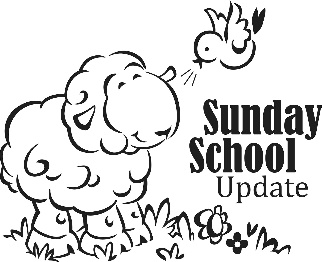
Please use the Meeting ID: **842 0206 5327** and Passcode: **384480** on the **Wednesdays of Lent** at noon to Zoom in for a 15-minute devotional service. It will be a simple service of reading with scripture and prayer. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 1.



**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Every year on the fourth Sunday in Lent United Church of Christ congregations and others make special offerings to support One Great Hour of Sharing. This year we will do so next Sunday, March 14, although you may give at any time during March. Envelopes were attached to the Herald. A guiding theme is **“You are here.”** “In the midst of suffering, where is God? God is here. Where are you? When you give to OGHS, you are here. Our gifts through the offering allow the church to show up and be here when people need it most.” Read Matthew 25:31-46 for inspiration, and consider how “**You are here**” shows the church uniting to respond to needs,” and also “your answer to the question ‘Where do I fit in this picture?’ When God’s love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of the human family.”

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**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.

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 is Monday, March 15. Order forms are in the Herald and are in this bulletin. The cost is $12 per plant.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Sunday School for children

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

Monday: Tornado Remembrance

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Zoom Wednesday Devotional Service, noon

842 0206 5327 384480

Thursday: Zoom Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: Daylight Savings Begins: Spring Forward!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Girl Scout Sunday

**Illinois South Conference**

Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Michelle (Aaron) Torigian, Belleville Trinity UCC, Pastor Tim Reed, Retired Pastors Revs. Robert Goddard and Jan Dashner, O’Fallon, IL.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

**20**Then God spoke all these words:

**2**I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; **3**you shall have no other gods before me.

**4**You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5**You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, **6**but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**7**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

**8**Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. **9**Six days you shall labor and do all your work. **10**But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. **11**For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

**12**Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

**13**You shall not murder.

**14**You shall not commit adultery.

**15**You shall not steal.

**16**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**17**You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**John 2:13-22**

**13**The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14**In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. **15**Making a whip

of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. **16**He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” **17**His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” **18**The Jews then said to him, “What sign

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can you show us for doing this?” **19**Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” **20**The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” **21**But he was speaking of the temple of his body. **22**After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



**Remember Our Shut-Ins**

**Cedarhurst of Granite City**, 3450 Village Ln., Granite City, IL 62040

Loretta Cook,#507

**Fountain View Manor**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

JoAnn King, #215

**Granite Nursing & Rehab**, 3500 Century Dr, Granite City, IL 62040

Karen Luddeke, Nadine Ryan

**Meridian Village** 27 Auerbach Pl, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Mary Lee Krohne (Call Linda Nitchman for updates)

Hilde Few

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, 2243 Cleveland, G.C., IL

Rose Marie Bauer, 1438 Schaefer Rd., G.C., IL

Isabella Boyer, 20 Englewood Dr.,Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Paul Boyer, 26 Hickory Hill Ln., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Marlene Brokaw, 112 Summit Rdg., Maryville, IL 62062

Ruth Buer, 15826 Clayton Rd. #215, Ellisville, MO 63011

Myra Cook, 4034 Stearns Ave., G.C., IL

Randy Fischer, 2517 Edison Ave., G.C., IL

Mary Franz, 3117 Willow Ave., G.C., IL

Luitgard Fries, 4117 Old Alton Rd., G.C., IL

Norman Hente, 3708 Joyce St., G.C., IL

Bill McAmish, 3320 Colgate Pl, G.C., IL

Billie Meyer, 533 Bischoff Rd, G. C., IL

Cliff Robertson, 2336 O’Hare Ave, G.C., IL

Merle Rose, 2447 Waterman Ave., G.C., IL

Valara Schorfheide, 2517 Edison, G.C., IL

Marjorie Schmidt, 4857 Danielle Ct., G.C., IL

June Stille, 49 Rivera, G.C., IL

Don Young, 112 Summit Rdg., Maryville, IL 62062

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**Want Information?**

Bell Choir – Talk to Kathy Morris, 618-345-7741

Cemetery – Kathy Montgomery, 618- 876-5811

Chancel Choir – Talk to Ritch Alexander

618-451-5092

Council – Talk to Karen Orr, President

618-558-4192

Caslyn Brandes, Vice-President 618-802-1152

Dine to Donate – Talk to Bev Meyer

618-451-6849

Evening Guild – Talk to Christie Roth

618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Talk to Mike Seibold,

Treasurer, 618-792-4301

Diane Gerdt, church office

618-877-6060

Heavenly Stars – Talk to Betty Meszaros

618-451-1968

Karen Gaines, 618-288-0845

Herald – Talk to Office, 618-877-6060

Hilltoppers – Talk to Dee Roethemeyer

618-876-6860

Historian – Talk to Sandy Dawson,

618-931-3467

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse

618-876-0936 or Dave Douglas,

618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson

618-931-3467

or Doris Petersen 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Talk to Donna Brandes

618-802-1072 or Nancy Jacobs,

618-931-0673

Schnuck’s Rebate – Talk to Betty Meszaros

618-451-1968

Scrip Orders – Talk to Melissa Lane

314-575-7627

Sunday School – Talk to Donna Brandes

618-802-1072

Trivia Night – Talk to Kara Wright

618-407-3591

Youth Fellowship – Talk to Sharon O’Toole

618-797-1802

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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 !!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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BY

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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