**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

April 11, 2021 Second Sunday of Easter

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

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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**To follow safety guidelines, please**

**keep social distance, mask up, speak and sing moderately.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul…With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus… (Acts 4:32a, 33a)

PRELUDE *A Celebration of Praise* Denton

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Based on Psalm 19 & John 20

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

***Alleluia! My Lord and my God!***

There is no speech, nor are there words;

***Alleluia! My Lord and my God!***

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

***Alleluia! My Lord and my God!***

And their words to the end of the world.

***Alleluia! My Lord and my God!***

Let us join together in prayer:

***Your glory is over all the world, O God, enduring forever. We worship you with rejoicing in our hearts, for your love and grace are great. We believe and come to you declaring “My Lord and my God” forever. May all the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be worthy of you. Breathe your Spirit into us, and grant us your peace, we pray, that we may have life in your name. Amen.***

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HYMN  ***“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*** Verses 1, 2 & 4

***Love divine, all loves excelling,***

***Joy of heaven to earth come down,***

***fix in us thy humble dwelling,***

***all thy faithful mercies crown.***

***Jesus, thou art all compassion,***

***pure, unbounded love thou art;***

***visit us with thy salvation,***

***enter every trembling heart.***

***Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit***

***into every troubled breast;***

***let us all in thee inherit,***

***let us find the promised rest.***

***Take away the love of sinning,***

***Alpha and Omega be;***

***end of faith, as its beginning,***

***set our hearts at liberty.***

***Finish then thy new creation,***

***pure and spotless let us be;***

***let us see thy great salvation***

***perfectly restored in thee:***

***changed from glory into glory,***

***till in heaven we take our place,***

***till we cast our crowns before thee,***

***lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

RESPONSIVE READING *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

That Easter day with joy was bright,

the sun shone out with fairer light,

 ***When, to their longing eyes restored,***

 ***the glad apostles saw their Lord.***

His risen flesh with radiance glowed,

his wounded hands and feet he showed;

 ***Those scars their solemn witness gave***

 ***that Christ was risen from the grave.***

*O Jesus, strong in gentleness,*

*come now yourself, our hearts possess,*

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 ***That we may give you all our days***

 ***the tribute of our grateful praise.***

*Come, risen Christ, with us abide*

*in this our joyful Eastertide;*

 ***Your own redeemed forever shield***

 ***from every weapon death can wield.***

EPISTLE LESSON 1 John 1:4-2:2

SOLO *On Angel’s Wings* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON John 20:19-31

REFLECTION

HYMN ***“Alleluia”***

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***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,***

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

***He is risen, Alleluia, he is risen, Alleluia,***

***He is risen, Alleluia, he is risen, Alleluia!***

***He’s my Savior, Alleluia, he’s my Savior, Alleluia,***

***He’s my Savior, Alleluia, he’s my Savior, Alleluia!***

***I will praise him, Alleluia, I will praise him, Alleluia,***

***I will praise him, Alleluia, I will praise him, Alleluia!***

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 *Chime Response*

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

 ***Holy One, it is our joy to offer gifts of time, talent and treasure as faithful disciples today. May they shine your***

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***light to all your world, and bring peace, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“In the Garden”***

***I come to the garden alone,***

***while the dew is still on the roses;***

***and the voice I hear, falling on my ear,***

***the Son of God discloses.***

***And he walks with me, and he talks with me,***

***and he tells me I am his own,***

***and the joy we share, as we tarry there,***

***none other has ever known.***

***He speaks, and the sound of his voice***

***is so sweet the birds hush their singing,***

***and the melody that he gave to me***

***within my heart is ringing.***

***And he walks with me, and he talks with me,***

***and he tells me I am his own,***

***and the joy we share, as we tarry there,***

***none other has ever known.***

***I’d stay in the garden with him***

***though the night around me be falling,***

***but he bids me go; through the voice of woe***

***his voice to me is calling.***

***And he walks with me, and he talks with me,***

***and he tells me I am his own,***

***and the joy we share, as we tarry there,***

***none other has ever known.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Smith

Welcome as we gather on the second Sunday of the Easter season. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The **bulletins** are given in loving memory of the birthday of Myrna Bichoff Rich by Herb and Jeanie Bichoff, Jennifer, Britt, Alex and Nick Robertson.

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If you would like to place flowers on the altar, and pick them up Monday, please call Sue Goedeke at (618) 791-0137. 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.



**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.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Sunday School for Children

 In-person and Zoom Worship 9:30 a.m.

 Outdoor Service 11:00 a.m.

Monday: Al-Anon 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Next Sunday: Sunday School for Children

 In-person and Zoom Worship 9:30 a.m.

 Outdoor Service 11:00 a.m.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Centralia St. Peter UCC, Pastor John Pawloski, Collinsville St. John UCC, Rev. Jennifer (Allen) Sowell-Glover, Sr. Pastor, Collinsville St. John UCC, Rev. Katie Jo (Craig) Bielke, Associate Pastor, Retired Pastor Rev. Dr. Paul and Debbie Schippel, Centralia, IL

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 John 1:4-2:2**

**4**We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**5**This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. **6**If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; **7**but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **8**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2**and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**John 20:19-31**

**19**When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21**Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22**When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. **24**But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25**So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” **26**A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28**Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29**Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” **30**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. **31**But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.