**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

April 18, 2021 Third Sunday of Easter

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 and sing moderately.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Acts 3:12-19

Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.” (Acts 3:19)

PRELUDE *Ancient of Days* Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Based on 1 John 3:1-7

We gather to worship in the name of God the Father…

***See what love the Father has given us.***

We gather to worship in the name of God the Father,

God the Son…

***See what love the Father has given us,***

***that we should be called children of God;***

We gather to worship in the name of God the Father,

God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

***See what love the Father has given us,***

***that we should be called children of God;***

***and that is what we are.***

For there is One Triune God, uniting us all.

Let us join together in prayer:

***Holy One, you claim us as beloved children. You give us hope, and inspire us to be righteous. You call us to purify ourselves of all sin, and to live with truth. Help us to do right, to proclaim your mercy everywhere, and to receive eternal peace. Amen.***

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HYMN  ***“Trust and Obey ”***

***When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word,***

***what a glory he sheds on our way!***

***While we do his good will, he abides with us still,***

***and with all who will trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey, for there’s no other way,***

***to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.***

***Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,***

***but our toil he will richly repay;***

***not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,***

***but is blest if we trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey, for there’s no other way,***

***to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.***

***But we never can prove the delights of his love***

***until all on the altar we lay;***

***for the favor he shows and the joy he bestows***

***are for them who will trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey, for there’s no other way,***

***to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.***

***Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,***

***or we’ll walk by his side in the way;***

***what he says we will do, where he sends we will go—***

***never fear, only trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey, for there’s no other way,***

***to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.***

LITANY OF PENANCE1 Honoring Earth Day, April 22, 2021

Lord, we pray for this world you have made. We ask your blessing on earth, wind, and water. Preserve this sweet place in its course through the cosmos.

***Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.***

Lord, we pray for the community of living creatures. Guide us in our works and ways, that every being may praise you with its life and serve you all of its days.

***Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.***

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Lord, we pray for our human family. You named us stewards of this Earth, and we want to tend it and care for it. Teach us to live in harmony together, so we can live in harmony with Earth.

***Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.***

Lord, again and again we seek what is good and do what is bad. We stand in the rubble of many bad choices. We have been forgetful and willful tenants since you first put us in the Garden. Give us strength and courage to change our ways, so this Earth may flourish under our care.

***Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.***

Lord, at the end of all things you will bring us into your household, to make community with you forever. Fill us with your Spirit now, in our days on this Earth, so we may be fit and ready for the new heaven and the new Earth you promise.

***Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.***

Lord, you have called us to be stewards of this wonderful Earth. Guide our efforts: refresh the ground and the sea, let the air be soft and sweet. Teach us to care for your Earth, as you care for us.

 ***We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

PSALTER LESSON Psalm 4

SOLO *Amazing Grace/How Firm a Foundation Medley*

 Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 24:36b-48

REFLECTION

HYMN ***“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”***

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***God, you spin the whirling planets,***

***fill the seas and spread the plain,***

***mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,***

***call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.***

***We, created in your image,***

***would a true reflection be***

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***of your justice, grace, and mercy,***

***and the truth that makes us free.***

***You have called us to be faithful***

***in our life and ministry.***

***We respond in grateful worship,***

***joined in one community.***

***When we blur your gracious image,***

***focus us and make us whole,***

***healed and strengthened as your people,***

***we move onward toward your goal.***

***God, your will is still creating,***

***calling us to life made new,***

***now reveal to us fresh vistas***

***where there’s work to dare and do.***

***Keep us clear of all distortion,***

***fashion us with loving care,***

***thus, new creatures in your image,***

***we’ll proclaim Christ everywhere.***

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 PRAYER1

 ***Creator God, we pray to you from the midst of your creation. We ask you to love and sustain this Earth; and to love and sustain us, who cling to it as it spins on its course through the cosmos. Teach us to love the Earth as you love it: help us not to take it for granted. Creator God, you made us in your image: teach us to be good stewards of your creation. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

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HYMN ***“This Is My Father’s World”***

***This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears***

***all nature sings, and round me rings***

***the music of the spheres.***

***This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought***

***of rocks and trees, of skies and seas---***

***his hand the wonders wrought.***

***This is our Father’s world: O let us not forget***

***that though the wrong is great and strong,***

***God is the ruler yet.***

***He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair—***

***all earth and trees, all skies and seas,***

***all creatures everywhere.***

***This is my Father’s world: he shines in all that’s fair;***

***in the rustling grass I hear him pass,***

***he speaks to me everywhere.***

***This is my Father’s world: why should my heart be sad?***

***The Lord is King, let heaven ring!***

***God reigns; let earth be glad!***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Rejoice, the Lord is King* Mansfield

1The Litany of Penance and Blessing Prayer are from Episcopal Peace and Justice Ministries Jubilee 2000 Manual, pp. 211 – 214.

Friends, we welcome you in the name of the one God who has defeated death forever by raising Jesus from the tomb. We too now walk in new life.

The **bulletins** are given in celebration of the 19th birthday of my Granddaughter **Amelia Gray** by her Grandmother **Glenda Mitchell**.

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.

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**Sunday School for children** **in the classroom by the nursery** has resumed. Everyone enters through the elevator entrance or front doors 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.

Wednesday: Herald Deadline

 Administrative Professionals Day

Thursday: Earth Day

Next Sunday: Sunday School for Children

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

 Outdoor Service 11:00 a.m.

I would like to thank all my church family for the much appreciated cards and words of comfort. I also, appreciate those that came to the visitation and gave me much needed hugs. A special thanks to Rev. Ritch Alexander and Rev. Karla Frost for speaking at the funeral and the special words spoken. My Mother will continue to touch my heart through my thoughts and memories. I am blessed to have my church family for comfort. You all make me strive to be a better person, just as she did.

 -Sincerely, Shara Young

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**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 (CHANGE)**

Columbia St. Paul UCC, Rev. Elizabeth Terrill, Interim Pastor, New Baden Zion UCC, Rev. Stephen (Molly) Stark, Retired Pastor, Rev. Dr. Herbert and Bennie Schafale

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Psalm 4**

**1**Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
    You gave me room when I was in distress.
    Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**2**How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
    How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
**3**But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;
    the Lord hears when I call to him.

**4**When you are disturbed, do not sin;
    ponder it on your beds, and be silent.
**5**Offer right sacrifices,
    and put your trust in the Lord.

**6**There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!
    Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!”
**7**You have put gladness in my heart
    more than when their grain and wine abound.

**8**I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
    for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

**Luke 24:36b-48**

**36**While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” **37**They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. **38**He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39**Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40**And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41**While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he

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said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” **42**They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43**and he took it and ate in their presence. **44**Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46**and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47**and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48**You are witnessesof these things.



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Our ministries, our ways of connecting with our members and our community, and our ways of utilizing technology have changed and evolved during the past year. Let’s gather to learn how we can share resources and ideas which can strengthen the work of the Church. The event will take place on Zoom with the opportunity to attend 3 of 6 different workshops.

**Workshop Choices – *You will choose your workshops during the event.***

**Workshop #1 – “Blest Be the Zoom that Binds”**

*Panelist – Rev. Christy Eckert, St. John UCC Tenton and Dale Ritzel, COGS, Carbondale:* Learn more about using Zoom for worship services, meetings, & staying connected. Join a frank discussion about pros & cons, costs, what works & what doesn’t, & future possibilities for using Zoom

**Workshop #2 – “From the Mail Box to the Zoom Box: Communicating Effectively with Multiple Generations”**

*Panelist – Rev. Michelle Torigian, St. Paul UCC Belleville:* This past year has made us rethink much of the way we communicate with each other. While many are embracing Zoom, others are still relying on newsletters, phone calls, and radio. Let’s talk about creative ways to communicate with ALL generations in our churches and communities to ensure that no one gets left out of our communications.

**Workshop #3 – “From Virtual to Hybrid --- How do we choose?”**

*Panelist – Katie Hotze-Wilton, Eden Theological Seminary:* There is so much technology to choose from and so much to learn.What questions should we be asking? And who will become the tech steward? Finding the answers together.

**Workshop #4 – “Live Streaming Your Church Events”**

*Panelists: Ev. Jeremy Wood, Salem UCC, Alhambra and Rev. Don Wagner, St. Paul UCC, Lebanon:* Live-streaming is not as scary as it sounds. With the expertise of two of our ISC churches that have been live-streaming their services, you can learn why you should and how you can implement live-streaming, as well as learn how to avoid the pitfalls of live broadcasting.

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**Workshop #5 – “Mental Health & Isolation During the Pandemic”**

*Panelist – Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Grantfork UCC & Rev. Lori Schafer, St. John Midway UCC Moro:* We focused last year’s Day of Discipleship on mental health, having no idea that just a few weeks later we would be thrown into a pandemic that none of us had before navigated. We will discuss isolation caused by the pandemic, the rise in suicides in the past year, and ways to help as told by some of our WISE congregations (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged).

**Workshop #6 – “Town Hall Conversation with Low-Tech & No-Tech Congregations”**

*Panelist – Rev. Andy Wilson, St. John’s UCC Smithton & Rev. Rosemary Captain, St. John UCC Fairview Heights:* Are you a member of a low-tech or no-tech congregation, and are you feeling overwhelmed by all the technological demands of the pandemic? Do you feel like your congregation is being left behind in ministry and outreach because your congregation is not technologically savvy? This breakout session will talk about engaging in fruitful ministry, even though they are not serving technologically advanced churches. Also, this will be a space for open dialog and exchange of ideas for all churches (laity and clergy alike) to share their experiences.

* **Fee for the event:** $25/person. *If you need assistance with the fee, please contact the ISC registrar at* *jriechmann@iscucc.org*

Register at <http://www.iscucc.org>

* **Schedule for the day:**

8:45 am – 9:00 am Participants log in

 9:00 am – 9:30 am Opening devotion and presentation of schedule

 9:30 am – 10:10 am Workshop 1

 10:20 am – 11:00 am Workshop 2

 11:10 am – 11:50 am Workshop 3

The 40-minute workshop times are intended to offer the last ten minutes (at least) for questions and comments from the attendees. Ten-minute breaks between the workshops will allow all participants to get away from the screens for a bit and choose their next workshop. **All six sessions will be available for all three workshop times.**