**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

May 9, 2021 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Thomas Nadelin Ritch Alexander, Organist

9:30 a.m. Zoom & In-Person Worship 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children (618) 877-6060

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**Following safety guidelines, please keep social distance, mask up, and speak or sing the bold print moderately.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

PRELUDE *Let Us With Gladsome Mind* Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

In the beginning when your spirit alone covered the void

There was potential for everything...

***For light and darkness, for earth and sky, for air and water and for dry land.***

For every kind of vegetation, for seeds and fruit of many kind...

***For the movements of distant planets and the return of the Seasons***

For living creatures of all kinds filling every space, in the air and in the deepest depths of the waters,

***For living creatures on land, for animals that creep and walk, beasts friendly and wild,***

For human beings that you created in your image in all the corners of the earth.

 ***Renew in us your spirit of daring creation that is ever unfolding, ever changing yet mindful of its origins: Your mysterious and magnificent power in which we share and in which we recognize your grace and love for all creation.***

Let us pray together:

 ***Holy One, we enter this time of worship to rejoice and be renewed as we remember and praise you for everything: for life and generations, for health and creation, for mercy and***

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***redemption. We remember that you are with us always, in the midst of every change and conflict. We remember that you call us to faithfulness, obedience, and stewardship. We remember that the love you give is to be shared with all. And so as we remember, we renew our commitment to follow in the ways of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to living according to your Spirit that reigned and inspired from the beginning, as it does now and forever more.***

***Amen.***

HYMN  ***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”***

Words: Edward H. Plumptre. Music: Arthur H. Messiter.

***Rejoice, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks and sing;***

***Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek***

***Raise high your free, exulting song, God’s wondrous praises speak***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***With voice as full and strong as ocean’s surging praise***

***Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Yes, on through life’s long path, still chanting as you go,***

***From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

RESPONSIVE READING

Jesus lived these twin truths: that humans need God and God

needs human beings. Just like parents are bound to their children so is God tied to each and every one of us.

***No idea could be further from the mind of our Creator that God is so holy, so sovereign and superior that he is unknowable, inaccessible and unresponsive.***

God created us in his own image so that we not only seek him but find and recognize him in all of creation.

***God is never far from us: We see God in each other because we all are God’s children.***

***God is never far from us: We see God all around us in creation, in every living creature and in every building block of our physical world because everything bears the mark of the creator.***

***Jesus understood that people can be frail, easily corrupted and sometimes capable of cruel and atrocious behavior, but he also***

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***knew and taught that first and foremost we always remain children of God, indispensable to the yearning heart of the one who created us. We give thanks to God in Christ. Amen***

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 2:15-24

SOLO  *On Angel’s Wings* Tonioli

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 8:1-3 John 20:1-10

REFLECTION

HYMN ***“Now Thank We All Our God”***

Words: Martin Rinkart; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Music: Johann Crüger; harm. Felix Mendelssohn.

***Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,***

***Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;***

***Who from our mother’s arms, has blessed us on our way***

***With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.***

***O may this bounteous God through all our live be near us,***

***With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;***

***And keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed,***

***And free us from all ills in this world and the next.***

***All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,***

***The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,***

***The one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore;***

***For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

 ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & PRAYER

God, you are the source of all there is, the source of all love, the alpha and the omega. In offering some of what we are entrusted with here on earth we reaffirm that all that was given us from you was given in grace, freely and unearned. Let these our gifts embody that spirit. May they extend your grace, grow greater understanding, bring healing,

and continue your creation in ways that will find favor in your eyes. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen

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UNISON PRAYER

***Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.***

***Where there is hatred, let me sow love.***

***Where there is injury, pardon.***

***Where there is doubt, faith.***

***Where there is despair, hope.***

***Where there is darkness, light,***

***And where there is sadness, joy.***

***O Creator Divine, grant***

***That I may not so much seek***

***To be consoled as to console;***

***To be understood as to understand;***

***To be loved as to love.***

***For it is in giving that we receive.***

***It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.***

***And it is in dying***

***That we are born to eternal life. Amen***

HYMN ***“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”***

Words: Attr. John Fawcett. Music: Scilian melody, 18th c.

***Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;***

***Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace;***

***O direct us and protect us traveling through this wilderness***

***Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel’s joyful sound;***

***May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound;***

***Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March in D* Handel

Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers and women! Welcome to worship, as we praise the God who calls forth love in all relationships.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of their Mother Margaret Willaredt by Stephen Willaredt and family

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 May 16, & 30.

**Thank you** to George Cochran who is serving as liturgist today.

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**Ivie Adam Colinger** was born on April 29, 2021. She is the daughter of Kellie Heath Colinger and Chad Colinger.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Mother’s Day

 Sunday School for Children

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

 Outdoor Service 11:00 a.m.

 Rev. Thomas Nadelin Leading Worship

 Begin Church World Service Blankets and Tools Offering

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

 ISC Clergy Retreat

Thursday: Ascension Day

 Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. All Purpose Room

 ISC Clergy Retreat

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, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, and Karen Luddeke.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Janet Cowley, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Valara Schorfheide, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

DuQuoin St. John’s UCC, Rev. Robert Morwell, East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson, Retired Pastor, Revs. Charles Preston and Karla Frost, Granite City, IL

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Genesis 2:15-24**

**15**The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. **16**And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; **17**but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you

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eat of it you shall die.” **18**Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” **19**So

out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. **20**The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. **21**So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22**And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23**Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” **24**Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

**Luke 8:1-3**

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, **2**as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, **3**and Joanna, the wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

**John 20:1-10**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. **2**So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” **3**Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. **4**The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5**He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. **6**Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7**and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. **8**Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9**for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10**Then the disciples returned to their homes.