**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| April 3, 2022 | Fifth Sunday in Lent (C) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Ritch Alexander, Organist |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com | (618) 877-6060 |

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

**Currently face masks are RECOMMENDED.**

Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

***Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.***

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN John 11:35-44

The Fifth Sunday of Lent from “Journey to Easter”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Be Strong in the Lord* Proulx

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION1

As people formed by God, we give praise to God:

***Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,***

***Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!***

As people restored by God, we give praise to God:

***Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,***

***Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!***

As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God:

***Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,***

***Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!***

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—a new and abundant life. With confidence in God’s generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

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***Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.***

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous. Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, who has made us his own. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun.

***Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, we press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.***

\*HYMN  ***“The Old Rugged Cross”*** #260

\*RESPONSIVE READING From Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise.

***Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?***

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches;

***For I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.***

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Glory Be to the Father”*** #734

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Philippians 3:4b-14 pg. 187

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ANTHEM Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON John 12:1-8 pg. 100

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*** #261

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION1

Congregation responds to each petition with:

***You are making all things new.***

RESPONSE ***“The Lord’s Prayer”*** (One Amen) #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near*  Richards

\*RESPONSE ***“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”***

Vss. 1 & 4 #250

***Throughout these Lenten days and nights***

***we turn to walk the inward way,***

***where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,***

***we live in hope till Easter Day.***

***And though the road is hard and steep,***

***the Spirit ever calls us on***

***through Calvary’s dying, dark and deep,***

***until we see the coming Dawn.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Holy and Mighty God, your generosity blesses each generation, and your people respond with praise and perseverance, and with gifts of service. May the offerings we place on the altar represent our commitment to press on toward the goal of abundant life for all, now and forever. Amen.***

INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

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BREAKING, POURING AND PARTAKING

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***By her gift, Mary prepared for the day of Jesus’ burial. By our prayers and presence, O God, we prepare for the Lenten turn toward Holy Week. We thank you that through this Sacrament we are strengthened to press on, and we are inspired to remember that betrayal and suffering are surmountable, because your steadfast love brings eternal victory. Thus, it is in Jesus’ wondrous name that we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN AND NOISY OFFERING

***“What Wondrous Love Is This”*** #257

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Trumpet Tune* Anonymous

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God is always creating, always doing something new (Isaiah 43:18-19). Welcome to worship, where we listen for the new word God has for us today.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the 30th birthday of our daughter, Kelly Gaines, on April 4, by Dave and Karen Gaines.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Mary Jo Seibold** at (618) 792-0120. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor bulletins is April 24.

Thank you to **Greg Young** for serving as liturgist today.

Thank you to **Rev. Dr. Don Wagner**, Pastor of St. Paul UCC in Lebanon, IL for creating and sharing the Lenten Devotional “Journey to Easter”. Additional daily readings can be found at www.stpaulucc-lebanon.org.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.

Communion & Noisy Offering for Community Care

**Cardinals Ticket Orders Due Today**

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

Cemetery Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Evening Guild Lenten Quiet Hour, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

E.S.O.S Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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

Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday:GCC Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:30 p.m.

Friday: **Pickup for Meat Sale, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Saturday: **Pickup for Meat Sale, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Fellowship Hall Reserved from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Altar Guild Palm Branch Preparation

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

Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.

**EVENING GUILD**

Our April 4th meeting will be a Lenten quiet hour with a salad and bread dinner beginning at 6:30, p.m.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our April Mission of the Month is dedicated St. John outreach funding. At a later date, this money will be used to purchase scrip cards for local grocery stores and gas stations. Then volunteers will surprise community members at the gas station or grocery store with a gift card to help them pay.

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**CARDINALS GAME TO CELEBRATE 160TH ANNIVERSARY**

If you would like to attend the St. Louis Cardinals vs Chicago Cubs game on Friday, June 24th at 7:15 p.m., ticket orders are

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due **today, April 3rd**. Tickets are $51.00 per person. Seats are located in the outfield, tier three. Cash or checks can be turned in

along with and order form to Mary Jo Seibold or Mike Seibold, Checks should be made out to St. John United Church of Christ. If you’d like to pay for your tickets with a card, go to the church website, click on the donate button, and click the “Cardinals vs. the Chicago Cubs” tile. Attendees will be given a physical ticket at least a week prior to the game.

**FIRST ANNUAL SPRING/SUMMER FLOWER**

**HANGING BASKET SALE**

As promised after the Fall Mum Sale, the church will be selling flowering hanging baskets. These 10” hanging baskets are grown by N.G. Heimos Greenhouse in Millstadt, Illinois. There are nine different varieties of plants that can be ordered, ranging from 3-5 colors. All baskets, no matter what plant is ordered, will cost $16.00. Due to weather and other conditions, specific colors cannot be guaranteed, therefore, colors will be picked based on what is available at that time. If a person prefers a specific color, write it by their name and we will try to accommodate their preference once the baskets are delivered (remember, we cannot guarantee the colors). Order forms were provided in the April edition of the “Herald”; they are also available on the informational table and on the church website. The order form indicates the available varieties as well as a picture of the basket. Payment in full is required when the order is placed. Checks should be made out to St. John UCC. All order forms and payments need to be given to Mike Seibold or to Angela Potter in the church office by **Sunday, April 24th**. Delivery of the baskets to the church is tentatively set for Wednesday, May 11th and will be available for pickup then through the weekend. Extra baskets will be ordered to sell to the public. We would appreciate your participation in selling these baskets to your friends, family, neighbors, and acquaintances. These baskets can also be a late Mother’s Day gift. The mum sale was a tremendous success, so let’s make this one just as big a success! Profits from this sale will be going to both the evangelism and stewardship fund to help support upcoming giving programs as well as the General Fund to help offset church expenses.

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**CHURCH SPONSORED BARBECUE**

On **Saturday, April 30th**, we will hold a barbecue in the church parking lot. Pork steaks, bratwursts, and hot dog dinners (with two sides) will be sold to the public. Volunteers will be needed on that day to grill, prepare the baked beans, fill the Styrofoam containers with the sides, place the brats and hotdogs on the buns, collect payments, and so on. The sale in 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. or until sold out, but we will need volunteers well before the start time. Hamilos Brothers in Madison will be providing the meat and supplies for this event. Pricing will be as follows:

Pork steak dinner with 2 sides: $12.00

Brat dinner with 2 sides: $12.00

Hotdog dinner with 1 side: $5.00

An early thank you to Carol and John Relleke for securing the grill for us. Refer questions to Mike Seibold (618-792-4301) or Kiki Cochran, (618-503-3608). Get tickets from Mike Seibold or the church office for yourself AND to sell to your family and friends. Proceeds from this sale will help fund the church’s Community Free Food Box Give-Away Program and help fund other church projects.

**SCRIP (GIFT CARD) PROGRAM**

Interested in purchasing gift cards through the scrip program? Plans are to submit orders the third Sunday of each month with gift cards distributed the following week. Cards are great to have on hand for your personal use or as gifts. Please contact Melissa Lane or Betty Meszaros (618-451-1968 or 618-670-5267) so they can explain how easily you can participate.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

**Cedarhurst of Granite City**, 3450 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

Don Young, #411

**Cedarhurst of Granite City, Memory Care**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

JoAnn King, #113,

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**The Fountains of West County**, 15826 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer, #215

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

Karen Luddeke

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

Mary Lee Krohne, #611 (Call Linda Nitchman for updates)

**Villas of Holly Brook**, 121 S. Bluff Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

Hilde Few, #208

**Hospital**

Leonard Schaefer is at Christian Hospital.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, 2243 Cleveland, G.C., IL 62040

Isabella Boyer, 4722 S. Hazel, Edwardsville, IL 62025

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

Myra Cook, 4034 Stearns Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Bonnie Fornaszewski, 200 Carlson Ave., Apt. 17D, Washington, IL 61571

Mary Franz, 3117 Willow Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Lou Hasse, 2689 Westmoreland Dr. Unit 2, G.C., IL 62040

Norman Hente, 3708 Joyce St., G.C., IL 62040

Bill McAmish, 3320 Colgate Pl., G.C., IL 62040

Sandy Mueller, 308 Warson Ln., G.C., IL 62040

Cliff Robertson, 2336 O’Hare Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Merle Rose, 2447 Waterman Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Marge Schmidt, 4857 Danielle Court, G.C., IL 62040

June Stille, 49 Riviera, G.C., IL 62040

Janice Weeks, 2650 Iowa, G.C., IL 62040

**Illinois South Conference**

Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate. Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel, Shiloh, IL. Retired Pastor, Rev. Kevin and Shellie Strope, Carlinville, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: **5**circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to

the law, a Pharisee; **6**as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. **7**Yet whatever gains I

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had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. **8**More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his

sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9**and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. **10**I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, **11**if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. **12**Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. **13**Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **2**There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. **3**Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4**But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, **5**“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” **6**(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) **7**Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. **8**You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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Text, letter

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***“The Old Rugged Cross”***

***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.***

***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.***

***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.***

***In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,***

***A wondrous beauty I see;***

***For ‘twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died***

***To pardon and sanctify me.***

***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.***

***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.***

***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.***

***“Glory Be to the Father”***

***Glory be to the Father,***

***And to the Son,***

***And to the Holy Ghost;***

***As it was in the beginning,***

***Is now, and ever shall be,***

***World without end.***

***Amen, Amen.***

***“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”***

***When I survey the wondrous cross***

***On which the Prince of glory died,***

***My richest gain I count but loss,***

***And pour contempt on all my pride.***

***Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,***

***Save in the death of Christ, my God;***

***All the vain things that charm me most,***

***I sacrifice them to his blood.***

***See, from his head, his hands, his feet,***

***Sorrow and love flow mingled down.***

***Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,***

***Or thorns compose so rich a crown?***

***Were the whole realm of nature mine,***

***That were an offering far too small;***

***Love so amazing, so divine,***

***Demands my soul, my life, my all.***

***“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.***

***“What Wondrous Love Is This”***

***What wondrous love is this,***

***O my soul, O my soul,***

***What wondrous love is this, O my soul!***

***What wondrous love is this***

***That caused the Lord of bliss***

***To bear the dreadful curse***

***For my soul, for my soul,***

***To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!***

***When I was sinking down,***

***Sinking down, sinking down,***

***When I was sinking down, sinking down;***

***When I was sinking down***

***Beneath God’s righteous frown,***

***Christ laid aside his crown***

***For my soul, for my soul,***

***Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!***

***To God and to the Lamb***

***I will sing, I will sing,***

***To God and to the Lamb I will sing!***

***To God and to the Lamb,***

***Who is the great “I AM,”***

***While millions join the theme,***

***I will sing, I will sing***

***While millions join the theme, I will sing!***

***And when from death I’m free,***

***I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,***

***And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on!***

***And when from death I’m free,***

***I’ll sing and joyful be,***

***And through eternity***

***I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,***

***And through eternity I’ll sing on!***