**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| May 8, 2022 |  Fourth Sunday of Easter(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 Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

 ***He makes me lie down in green pastures.***

He leads me beside still waters;

 ***He restores my soul.***

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

 ***Even though I walk through the valley***

 ***of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;***

For thou art with me;

 ***Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.***

Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

 ***Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.***

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

 ***And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.***

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *How Firm a Foundation*  Hustad, Arr.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

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‘I rejoiced with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

***“How good it is to sing praises to our God;***

***how pleasant and fitting to praise God”***

As your family, O God, we gather here today not because we have to, but because we want to.

 ***We are here to offer you our worship, our prayers,***

 ***and our lives in service to you and to our neighbor.***

We have as our example your Son,

who chose not to rule but to serve,

 ***Who gave of himself a love so strong***

 ***that it flowed like a river from his hands and his heart,***

Your Son, who came that we might have life,

and have it abundantly.

 ***Thanks be to God!***

Your Son, who came that we might know love,

and knowing, might share.

 ***Thanks be to God!***

Your Son, who emptied himself of life and love,

that we might be filled with both.

***Thanks be to God!***

“How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us,”

 ***“That we should be called children of God.”***

\*HYMN  ***“Come, Let Us Praise the Lord”*** #9

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 95:1-7a

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

***Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;***

***let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!***

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

 ***In his hand are the depths of the earth;***

 ***the heights of the mountains are his also.***

The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

***O come, let us worship and bow down,***

***let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!***

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

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\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“For the Beauty of the Earth”***

Vss. 1 & 3 #40

***For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,***

***for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

***For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above;***

***for all gentle thoughts and mild,***

***Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (Insert)**

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 9:36-43 pg. 120

SOLO M-O-T-H-E-R Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:7-16 pg. 97

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*** #440

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON 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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *In Green Pastures* Durke

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“For the Beauty of the Earth”***

 Vss. 2 & 4 #40

***For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,***

***hill and vale and tree and flower,***

***sun and moon and stars of light,***

***Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

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***For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above, offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,***

***Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Lord of abundant life, you have given us your love in so many ways and ask us to be faithful stewards of your gifts. Bless these offerings for the good they may do in your name. Bless us as we share ourselves in committed discipleship in your name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Now Thank We All Our God”***  #14

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Finale in D Minor* Thiman

1Adapted from “Faith and Worship” Website, Copyright John Birch, 2016; Incorporating Psalm 122, Psalm 147, and 1 John 3:1.

Welcome to worship this fourth Sunday of Easter. And a happy Mother’s Day to all mother-figures!

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

The **altar centerpiece** is given in celebration of the baptisms of our great nieces and nephew by Carol and John Relleke.

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 dates to sponsor bulletins are May 15 & 22.

Thank you to **Kara Wright** for serving as liturgist today and thank you to **Kiki Cochran** for greeting today.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Please sign up to be a greeter! The chart with available dates is in the Narthex entrance. Just choose your date and sign your name.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: **Mother’s Day**

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

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

 3 Baptisms, 9:30 a.m.

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 Begin CWS Blankets & Tools Offering

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

 Brotherhood, 6:30 p.m.

 Pastoral & Personnel Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

 Christian Ed/Worship/Fellowship Committee, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9-11 a.m.

 Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

 Fellowship Hour Sponsored by Chancel Choir (Sopranos & Altos)

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our May Mission of the Month is dedicated to the Wounded Warriors Project. The WWP mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors who incurred a physical or mental injury, illnesses, or wound, co-incident to military service on or after September 11, 2001.

**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. Please give your orders along with your check payable to St. John UCC or cash to Betty Meszaros.  You can participate even if you are not attending in person worship service. Just send your order and check to the church. Delivery of your gift cards will be arranged. Cards are great to have on hand for your personal use or as gifts. Graduation parties coming up soon? What about baby or bridal showers? Give a gift card to the retail store on the registry and make it easier on you as well as the recipient not having to return duplicates.  Gift cards can also be ordered for the Evangelism Committee/Helping Hands project. Please contact Melissa Lane or Betty Meszaros if any questions or for additional information. Appreciation to the congregation for continued support of this fund-raising project for the church’s general fund.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, Karen Luddeke, Leonard Schaefer, and Don Young.

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**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, and June Stille.

**Illinois South Conference**

Marissa Friedens UCC, Rev. Brett (Carolyn) Palmer. Mascoutah St. John UCC, Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz. Retired Pastor, Rev. Libby and Jane Feagans-King, Springfield, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 9:36-43**

**36**Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. **37**At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. **38**Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” **39**So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40**Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. **41**He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. **42**This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. **43**Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**John 10:7-16**

**7**So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8**All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9**I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **11**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12**The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13**The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. **14**I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, **15**just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. **16**I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT

 Child: Arizona Helen West

 Date of Birth: October 5, 2021

 Parents: Richard West & Alyson Carol (Streid) West

 Sponsors: Ashley Hartline, Aaron Streid, Kevin Millikin,

 & Sara Wellman

 Child: Jaxon Dean Streid

 Date of Birth: September 26, 2021

 Parents: Aaron Dean Streid & Taylor Marie (Stoicheff) Streid

 Sponsors: Anthony Stoicheff & Kristen Byrne

 Child: Emerson Marie Hartline

 Date of Birth: April 10, 2020

 Parents: Anthony Charles Hartline & Ashley Marie (Streid)

 Hartline

 Sponsors: Alyson West, Aaron Streid, and Whitney Hankins

PROMISES OF THE FAMILIES, SPONSORS & CONGREGATION

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized and to all God’s family as they live and grow in Christ?

 ***We promise our love, support, and care.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The U.C.C. Doxology of Faith)

Let us unite with the church in all times and places

in confessing our faith in the triune God.

***We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,***

***God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,***

***and to your deeds we testify:***

***You call the worlds into being,***

***create persons in your own image,***

***and set before each one the ways of life and death.***

***You seek in holy love to save all people***

***from aimlessness and sin.***

***You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.***

***In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,***

***our crucified and risen Savior,***

***you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death***

***and reconciling the world to yourself.***

***You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,***

***creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,***

***binding in covenant faithful people***

***of all ages, tongues, and races.***

***You call us into your church***

***to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,***

***to be your servants in the service of others,***

***to proclaim the gospel to all the world***

***and resist the powers of evil,***

***to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table,***

***to join him in his passion and victory.***

***You promise to all who trust you***

***forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,***

***courage in the struggle for justice and peace,***

***your presence in trial and rejoicing,***

***and eternal life in your realm which has no end.***

***Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.***

***Amen.***

PRAYER, BAPTISMS, AND PRESENTATIONS

HYMN ***“Because He Lives”*** Vss. 1 & 2 #447

***“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”***

***Savior, like a Shepherd lead us,***

***Much we need thy tender care;***

***In thy pleasant pastures feed us,***

***For our use thy folds prepare:***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Thou has bought us, thine we are;***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Thou has bought us, thine we are.***

***We are thine, do thou befriend us,***

***Be the guardian of our way;***

***Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,***

***Seek us when we go astray:***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Hear, O hear us when we pray;***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Hear, O hear us when we pray.***

***Thou hast promised to receive us,***

***Poor and sinful though we be;***

***Thou hast mercy to relieve us,***

***Grace to cleanse, and power to free:***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Early let us turn to thee;***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Early let us turn to thee.***

***Early let us seek thy favor,***

***Early let us do thy will;***

***Blessed Lord and only Savior,***

***With thy love our bosoms fill:***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Thou hast loved us, love us still;***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,***

***Thou hast loved us, love us still.***

***“Now Thank We All Our God”***

***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 life 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.***

***“Because He Lives”***

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***God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;***

***He came to love, heal, and forgive;***

***He lived and died to buy my pardon,***

***An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.***

***Because he lives I can face tomorrow;***

***Because he lives all fear is gone;***

***Because I know he holds the future,***

***And life is worth the living just because he lives.***

***How sweet to hold a newborn baby,***

***And feel the pride and joy he gives;***

***But greater still the calm assurance:***

***This child can face uncertain days because he lives.***

***Because he lives I can face tomorrow;***

***Because he lives all fear is gone;***

***Because I know he holds the future,***

***And life is worth the living just because he lives.***

\*\*\*“Come, Let Us Praise the Lord” not printed due to copyright.