**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| April 6, 2023 | Maundy Thursday (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Almeda Lahr-Well, Guest 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

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

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

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

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PRE-SERVICE MUSIC WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*The March to Calvary* Maunder

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 12:1-14 pg. 56

\*HYMN ***“An Upper Room with Evening Lamps”***  #274

CALL TO WORSHIP & PSALTER READING Psalm 51

We come this night to lament of our sins,

***For we all fall short of the glory of God.***

We come this night to lament the sins of the world,

***For nowhere on earth, or in history,***

***does righteousness and justice rule.***

Yet we come this night to find hope in our lives,

***For God has not forgotten us***

***and again creates new life.***

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We come this night to remember and renew the tradition passed from generation to generation,

***For the psalmist still speaks through our hearts.***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

***Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,***

***and cleanse me from my sin.***

***For I know my transgressions,***

***and my sin is ever before me.***

Against you, you alone, have I sinned,

and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are justified in your sentence

and blameless when you pass judgment.

***You desire truth in the inward being;***

***Therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.***

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

***Let me hear joy and gladness;***

***let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.***

***Hide your face from my sins,***

***and blot out all my iniquities.***

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

***Do not cast me away from your presence,***

***and do not take your holy spirit from me.***

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and sustain in me a willing spirit.

***Then I will teach transgressors your ways,***

***and sinners will return to you.***

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice;

if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

***The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;***

***a broken and contrite heart, O God,***

***you will not despise.***

GOSPEL READING AND INVITATION TO REFLECTION

John 13:1-17 pg. 101

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**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Our Lord Is Crucified* Lorenz

\*HYMN ***“I Then Shall Live”*** #372

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Loving God, we remember Jesus’ words: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Now we do more than remember; we follow through with our offerings. May our generous gifts from the heart give life to the children of Kindercottage, and to each of us, as we dedicate ourselves to faithful discipleship. Amen.***

ANTHEM *And No Bird Sang* Chancel Choir

INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

PARTAKING

Family, Baptism Sponsors & Prayer Partners of Baylee

Fischer and Conyr Fischer invited to the Table

Family, Baptism Sponsors & Prayer Partners of Eleanor

Reynolds and Allison Reynolds invited to the Table

Congregation served in pews after Confirmands partake

Altar Communion by intinction for those who come forward

while the trays are being passed to the congregation.

(The United Church of Christ practices “Open Communion.”

All confessing Christians are welcome to partake from the Table of the Lord. Please open each element when invited so we may partake together.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*HYMN ***“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*** #255

*I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

Monologues Written by Susan A.J. Lyttek

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INTRODUCTION Karla Frost

JAMES, JESUS’ BROTHER Greg Young

*Were You There*

SOLDIER Connie Ahlers

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

THIEF George Cochran

*Just As I Am*

OLDER CHILD Baylee Fischer

*At the Cross*

OLDER WOMAN Karen Gaines

*I Love to Tell the Story*

CLOSING WORDS Karla Frost

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN NEAR DARKNESS

THE LIGHT OF HOPE RISES

\*LEAVING IN SILENCE

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We thank **Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well** for serving as guest organist and director tonight.

We thank **Baylee Fischer** for serving as acolyte.

We thank **Karen Gaines** for serving as liturgist and for coordinating the closing monologues.

We thank **Dan Comer** for recording the Lenten Monologues’ music.

We thank the participants in the Lenten Monologues: **Greg Young, Connie Ahlers, George Cochran, Baylee Fischer, and Karen Gaines.**

In the spirit of dramatic reverence, **please do not applaud** music or readings.

Our sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and reflection from 1:00-3:00 p.m. tomorrow, Good Friday.

The Lenten Offering Envelopes and tonight’s Maundy Thursday offering will be given to Kindercottage.

Sunday’s special Easter envelope and regular offering envelope gifts have been designated for our General Fund and the support of our ministries.

As we leave in silence tonight, may we listen for the Spirit directing us to someone in need of special blessing. Please invite and bring them to worship with you so they may experience the new life of Easter morning.

9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

Sunday School children gather in front pews on Pulpit side

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour sponsored by Council

Visitation for **Leonard Schaefer** will be held at Irwin Chapel on Friday, April 7, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Visitation will continue at St. John UCC on Saturday, April 8, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until time of funeral service at 10:30 a.m.

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**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

Bell Choir – Talk to Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095

Cemetery – Talk to Kathy Montgomery, 618-876-5811

Chancel Choir – Talk to John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297

Council – Talk to Kiki Cochran, President, 618-797-2511 or Donna Brandes, Vice President, 618-802-1072

Evening Guild – Talk to Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Talk to Mike Seibold, Treasurer, 618-792-4301

Angela Potter, 618-877-6060 church office

Heavenly Stars – Talk to Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968

Karen Gaines, 618-288-0845

Herald – Talk to Angela Potter 618-877-6060 church office

Hilltoppers – Talk to Dee Roethemeyer, 618-876-6860

Historian – Talk to Sandy Dawson, 618-931-3467

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse, 618-876-0936,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-931-3467

Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs, 618-931-0673

Scrip Orders – Talk to Melissa Lane, 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968

Sunday School – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Youth Fellowship – Talk to Sharon O’Toole, 314-420-1548

**Try our QR code! This little square will take you directly to our secure MyVanco website where you can contribute to any of our various funds. Just follow three simple steps:**

**Qr code

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1. **Open your smart phone’s camera app**
2. **Aim the camera at the black and white square below and a link will appear on your screen.**
3. **Click the link and you’ll be directed to our donations website. From there, you can select a fund to which you’d like to make a contribution. Thank you!**

***“An Upper Room with Evening Lamps”***

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith. Music: William H. Monk. Words & Music © 1988 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***An upper room with evening lamps ashine,***

***The twelve disciples, and the table spread;***

***Now in our turn Christ bids us pour the wine,***

***And in remembrance bless and break the bread.***

***We see by faith upon the cross displayed***

***His body broken and his blood outpoured;***

***In that dread robe of majesty arrayed***

***We gaze in worship on the dying Lord.***

***Dead for our sins, yet reigning now above,***

***Still to our hearts we find his presence given;***

***Take for ourselves the pledges of his love,***

***Foretaste and token of that feast in heaven.***

***So send us out, to love and serve and praise,***

***Filled with his Spirit, as the Master said:***

***Love, joy and peace the wine of all our days,***

***Christ and his life our true and living bread.***

***“I Then Shall Live”***

Words: Gloria Gaither. Music: Jean Sibelius; arr. *Hymnal* *1933*. Words © 1981 Gaither Music Company (Admin. Gaither Copyright Mgmt.) Music Arr. © 1933, Ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press). Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***I then shall live as one who’s been forgiven;***

***I’ll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.***

***I know my name is clear before my Father;***

***I am his child, and I am not afraid.***

***So greatly pardoned, I’ll forgive another;***

***The law of love I gladly will obey.***

***I then shall live as one who’s learned compassion;***

***I’ve been so loved that I’ll risk loving, too.***

***I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;***

***I dare to see another’s point of view.***

***And when relationships demand commitment,***

***Then I’ll be there to care and follow through.***

***Your kingdom come around and through and in me,***

***Your power and glory, let them shine through me;***

***Your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,***

***And may your living kingdom come in me.***

***The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor,***

***And may your feed a hungry world through me.***

***“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”***

***Beneath the cross of Jesus***

***I gladly take my stand --***

***The shadow of a mighty Rock***

***Within a weary land,***

***A home within the wilderness,***

***A rest upon the way,***

***From the burning of the noontide heat,***

***And the burden of the day.***

***Upon that cross of Jesus my eye at times can see***

***The very dying form of One***

***Who suffered there for me;***

***And from my smitten heart with tears***

***Two wonders I confess --***

***The wonders of redeeming love***

***And my unworthiness.***

***I take, O cross, your shadow***

***For my abiding place;***

***I ask no other sunshine than***

***The sunshine of his face,***

***Content to let the world go by,***

***To know no gain nor loss,***

***My sinful self my only shame,***

***My glory all the cross.***