**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| July 9, 2023 | 6th Sunday after Pentecost (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Dave Ekstrand, Dir. Of Music |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| [E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)  Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com | (618) 877-6060  Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc |

YouTube: gcstjohnucc Facebook: Search St. John UCC Granite City

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 AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER “Peace be with you!”

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

***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.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

“I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also’—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Lord of the Dance* Shaker Melody

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*Embrace the yoke of Christ’s love. For Christ’s yoke is easy and his burden is light.*

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

Christ calls those who are weary and heavy laden.

***In Christ, we find rest.***

Christ calls us to bear his yoke and learn from him.

***In Christ, we see God’s ways.***

Christ is gentle and humble in heart.

***In Christ, we know God’s love.***

Come, for Christ calls us here.

Let us pray:

***You have walked many miles with us, O God. You have comforted and strengthened us along the way. Keep us on your path, for we easily lose our way. We do not understand why we do the things we do. Forgive our foolish ways. As we learn to live in your ways, help us choose the cause of justice and righteousness as we heed your call. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*** #68

\*RESPONSIVE READING2 *Lord of the Dance (#118)*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,

and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,

***And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,***

***at Bethlehem I had my birth.***

Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

***And I’ll lead you all wherever you may be,***

***and I’ll lead you all in the Dance, said he.***

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,

but they would not dance and they would not follow me;

***I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;***

***they came with me and the Dance went on.***

Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

***And I’ll lead you all wherever you may be,***

***and I’ll lead you all in the Dance, said he.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 7:15-25a pg. 147

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SPECIAL MUSIC *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Dave Ekstrand

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 pg. 11

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“He Leadeth Me”*** #499

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 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Converse

\*SUNG RESPONSE3 ***“Make Me a Servant”*** #576

***Make me a servant, humble and meek,***

***Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;***

***and may the prayer of my heart always be:***

***make me a servant, make me a servant,***

***make me a servant today.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Many are weary and heavy burdened in the world, O Lord, and we pray that our offerings may help meet their needs. We also pray that our actions may align with your ways, as we respond to your lead in our lives. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”*** #589

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Jesus Loves Me* Bradbury

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The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of Harriet Bunselmeyer by the Bunselmeyer family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Barb Houston** (618-610-1884). Flower Emporium offers $25 (small), $30 (medium), or $35 (large) arrangements. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available dates to sponsor the bulletin are July 16th & 30th.

Thank you to **George Cochran** for serving as liturgist and to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

CE/W/F, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

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

Saturday: Patricks’ Bike Event Using St. John Parking Lot

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

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

Benevolent Fund Gifts Presented, 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hour by Bible Study

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The July MOM is the Madison County Advocacy Center. A list of items needed for donations is enclosed in the Herald. Donations can be placed on a table in the Narthex.

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**HOUSEWORK HELP NEEDED**

The loving daughter of a parishioner is looking for a part-time, kind, cheerful lady to assist her mother. The hours are flexible, possibly two hours, three days a week in Granite City. Please contact Terri at 630-988-0258 or terri.rior123@gmail.com for additional details or if interested.

**STRENGHTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ with ½ used by the Illinois South Conference for local projects and ½ sent to the national office for churchwide projects. Many churches receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, but we have moved it to July. This year we will dedicate the Strengthen the Church Offering on July 23. Please use the special envelopes or clearly designate that your separate gift is for this (STC) offering in order to keep it separate from the general fund offering. It would also help the counters if you write your envelope number on your Strengthen the Church Offering. Envelopes were included in the July edition of the Herald and are available on the table in the Narthex.

**SCRIP**

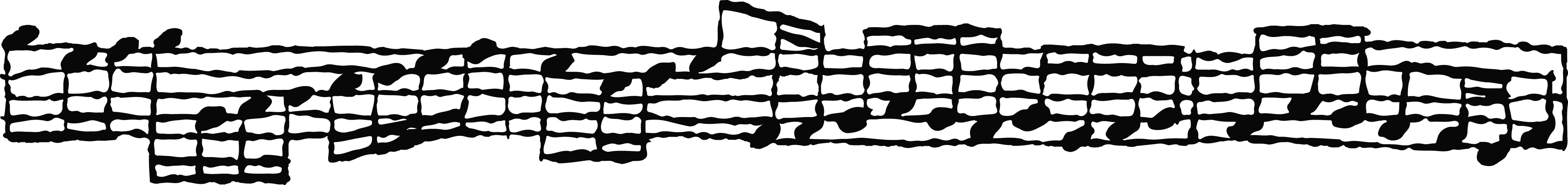
Do you like to shop? Purchasing gift cards through the scrip program is perfect for you! Our church receives a rebate so you can feel less guilty about the amount of money you are spending. Do you hate to shop? Purchasing gift cards through the scrip program is perfect for you!  You can give a gift card and let the recipient make their own selection. Did you know gift cards can be used for online purchases?  Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. Give

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order form and check payable to St John UCC to Betty Meszaros at any time. Cash is also happily accepted but only if giving order to Betty in person. Orders will be held until the third Sunday of each month and submitted then. Exception if total order does not cover shipping cost which is currently $10.50 per shipment. You can still participate in the program if not attending in-person worship. Just drop off or mail your check to the church with a note of cards you are ordering. Cost is face value of the card with no tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to church. Contact Melissa Lane at 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 if any questions. **UPDATE:  The July and August scrip orders will be combined with orders submitted the first Sunday in August. Third Sunday schedule will be resumed in September.**

**FALL MUM SALE**

The Annual Fall Mum Sale order forms will be available in next week’s bulletin. The due date for those order forms will be sometime in the middle of August.



**SINGSPIRATION**

Everyone is welcome to attend the Singspiration event on July 23rd from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Wilson Park Pavilion. It will be a time of praise, worship, and prayer for the community and will include free food and refreshments.



Mark your calendars and put your thinking caps on! Our Trivia Night planning team is working on a great evening of fun and friendly competition for Saturday, August 26, in Fellowship Hall. Watch the bulletins and August Herald for more details.

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**3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

Any of our children entering 3rd grade next August may receive a special Bible on Sunday, September 17, during 9:30 a.m. worship. Please call the church office at 618-877-6060 to give

name and address for letters to be sent inviting them to participate.

**PLASTIC BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION**

We are collecting plastic bottle caps to assist Eleanor Reynolds in her Girl Scout bench project. Bottle caps should be put in the tub in the Narthex.

Text

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If sorting & cleaning are in your plans, this will be the perfect time to hold aside items to donate to the all-church rummage sale. The event will be held **September 28th & 29th** this year and items can be brought to the stage in Fellowship Hall between September 5th and September 27th. No large electronics or heavy items please. General rule of thumb: If you would have to pay for it to be recycled, item cannot be accepted. This sale is sponsored by the Evening Guild with assistance appreciated from family and friends. All proceeds are given to church projects or local charitable organizations. Please mark the following important dates on your calendar. **Volunteers are especially needed during Set Up and Pricing**:

Tuesday, September 26th – 9:00 a.m. Set up

Wednesday, September 27th – 9:00 a.m.

Pricing

**Thursday, September 28th – 8:30 a.m. to**

**3:00 p.m. Open for Shoppers**

**Friday, September 29th – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00**

**p.m. Open for Shoppers**

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**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Earl Buenger, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Merle Rose, Marjorie Schmidt, and Jerry Shonk.

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Isabella Boyer, Carol Braundmeier, Christopher Clark, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Chuck King, Mina McBrian,

Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, June Stille, and Nancy Wilson.

**Illinois South Conference**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Rev. Kim (Dr. Aaron Newcomb) Magwire. Carlinville St. Paul UCC. Retired Pastor, Rev. Gary and Joyce Kniepkamp, St. Jacob, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Romans 7:15-25a**

**15**I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. **16**Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. **17**But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. **18**For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. **19**For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. **20**Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. **21**So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. **22**For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, **23**but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. **24**Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? **25**Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**16**“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, **17**‘We

played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ **18**“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; **19**the Son of Man came eating

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and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

**25**At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; **26**yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. **27**All things have been

handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. **28**“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29**Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**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:**

1. **Open your smart phone’s camera app**
2. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedAim 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!**

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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, 618-791-8246

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

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-791-8246

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

A poster for a trivia night

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St. John UCC Trivia Night

Table Registration Form

**This form is due in the church office by Wednesday, August 23rd.**

You can also submit your registration by phone (call 618-877-6060) or by email (send information to stjohnuccevents@gmail.com)

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT ENCLOSED (please circle one) YES NO

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the game will start at 7:00 p.m. Cost is $120.00 per table, with a max of 8 players at each table. Cash Prizes will be awarded to the 1st & 2nd place tables. Prizes will also include:

* 1 Super-Duper Gift Card Basket Drawing (chances sold before August 26th and during the evening of the 26th before the drawing)
* 50/50 drawing
* 1 Attendance prize drawing per round

Popcorn, iced tea, lemonade, coffee and ice will be provided at no additional cost.

*This event is smoke & alcohol free.*

**FOOD BOX PROJECT**

On Saturday, September 9th, we will continue our church’s Food Box Give-Away Program to help fight hunger in the community. Food prices are high, as we all know, which means it will cost more to fill the boxes. To offset the costs, we are once again asking for donations of food from the congregation. Also, if anyone has any contacts for food donations, such as grocery stores, produce markets, food manufacturers, dairies, etc., please let us know. During the March distribution, we gave away 180 boxes. We are hoping to distribute at least 150 - 175 boxes.

For those who would like to donate food for this project, the following is a suggested list to follow. Dates of collection for specific items have been included. If anyone has items to donate that do not appear on the list or would like to donate them on a different Sunday than what is listed, feel free to do so. Please make sure items being donated are not expired. Both Name Brand items and store brands are acceptable items to donate. Watch for sales at Schnucks, Ruler (they send out coupons), Aldi, Walmart, Sam’s, etc. The congregation’s generosity and participation has been tremendous for this project as well as all the others that have been implemented.

Suggested donations and dates:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sun, 6-11-23** | Canned soup (chicken noodle, vegetable, tomato, etc.) or vegetable canned goods\* |
| **Sun, 6-18-23** | Canned chili & stew\* |
| **Sun, 6-25-23** | Boxed cereal (Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Corn Flakes, avoid sugary cereals such as Froot Loops) |
| **Sun, 7-2-23** | Peanut butter 16 oz jar (Ruler has the lowest price to date) |
| **Sun, 7-9-23** | Jars of applesauce (The Kroger brand is inexpensive) |
| **Sun, 7-16-23** | Canned Spaghetti Os (Campbells) or Spaghetti & Meat Balls or Lasagna (Chef Boyardee). It can be similar products under other manufacturers as well. |
| **Sun, 7-23-23** | Canned tuna or 2lb bag of rice |
| **Sun, 7-30-23** | 64 oz bottles of juice - apple cranberry, grape - (Dollar Tree has inexpensive options) |
| **Sun, 8-6-23** | Mac & cheese dinners |
| **Sun, 8-13-23** | Vegetable canned goods\* |
| **Sun, 8-20-23** | 5 lb bag of flour |
| **Sun, 8-27-23** | Canned chili & stew\* |

\*These items are listed twice due to the high volume needed

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***“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”***

***Come, thou Fount of every blessing,***

***Tune my heart to sing thy grace;***

***Streams of mercy, never ceasing,***

***Call for songs of loudest praise.***

***Teach me some melodious sonnet,***

***Sung by flaming tongues above;***

***Praise his name - I’m fixed upon it -***

***Name of God’s redeeming love.***

***Here I raise to thee an altar,***

***Hither by thy help I’ve come;***

***And I hope, by thy good pleasure,***

***Safely to arrive at home.***

***Jesus sought me when a stranger,***

***Wandering from the fold of God;***

***He, to rescue me from danger,***

***Bought me with his precious blood.***

***O to grace how great a debtor***

***Daily I’m constrained to be!***

***Let thy goodness, like a fetter,***

***Bind my wandering heart to thee;***

***Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,***

***Prone to leave the God I love;***

***Here’s my heart, O, take and seal it;***

***Seal it for thy courts above.***

***“He Leadeth Me”***

***He leadeth me, O blessed thought!***

***O words with heavenly comfort frought!***

***Whate’er I do, wheree’er I be,***

***Still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,***

***Nor ever murmur nor repine;***

***Content, whate’er my lot may be,***

***Since ‘tis my God who leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***And when my task on earth is done,***

***When by thy grace the victory’s won,***

***E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,***

***Since God through Jordan leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”***

***O Master, let me walk with thee***

***In lowly paths of service free;***

***Tell me thy secret: help me bear***

***The strain of toil, the fret of care.***

***Help me the slow of heart to move***

***By some clear, winning word of love;***

***Teach me the wayward feet to stay,***

***And guide them in the homeward way.***

***Teach me thy patience -- still with thee***

***In closer, dearer company,***

***In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,***

***In trust that triumphs over wrong;***

***In hope that sends a shining ray***

***Far down the future’s broadening way,***

***In peace that only thou canst give,***

***With thee, O Master, let me live.***