

*St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois*

*Created
to Care*



*First Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Sunday
May 26, 2024*

Welcome to St. John

Welcome Thank you for joining us for in-person worship today!

Livestreaming All of St. John's worship services are now livestreamed. You can watch the service live or at another time by going to our website, www.stjah.org or our Vimeo page, www.vimeo.com/stjah.

Holy Communion All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion at St. John. We believe that Jesus welcomed all to his mission of love and all are welcome to the table. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. All are invited to come forward, row by row. If you cannot come forward, a server will bring communion to you.

A gluten-free option is available. White Grape Juice or Red Wine are available in the trays.

Giving Offering plates are passed during worship. You can also give by going to www.stjah.org and clicking the "GIVE" tab at the top of the page, or by mail. Thank you for your generosity!

Children in Worship Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Packets are available for children.

Interested in Membership? Contact the office at office@stjah.org or 847-255-6687.

Open and Affirming We are an ONA church. Please visit our website and see our ONA Statement on the back page of this bulletin for more information.

Wifi Network & Password Guest & StJohnGuest

CONTACT US –

308 N. Evergreen Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

www.stjah.org | office@stjah.org

facebook.com/stjohnuccah | twitter.com/stjohnuccah | instagram.com/stjohnucc

Office: 847.255.6687

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

STAFF –

Rev. Judith Wang, Interim Pastor – pastor@stjah.org

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – office@stjah.org

Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist & Orchestra Director

Linda Styzek, Pianist & Worship Band Coordinator

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director & Livestream Coordinator

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

May 26, 2024

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

The Music Committee respectfully requests that you refrain from applauding after the musical offerings, as reflective silence is a part of the musical experience. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader and **People**)

Leader: Chaos

Men: Darkness

Women: Formless

Men: Swirling

Women: Deep

All: Nothing

Leader: Let there be light.

All: And there was light, so we can see...

Leader: God saw, and God spoke.

Women: Order

Men: Light

Women: Shape

Men: Hospitable

Women: Aligned

Men: Clear

All: And God saw that it was good.

Leader: What will we do with what we can see?

*OPENING HYMN #31

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Your creation is a daily miracle, O God, as you shape all things in the direction of life, calling forth the best the earth has to offer, setting in motion a world that renews and sustains.

And in your instruction to it all, you give a blessing.

May we, today, hear your creating word once again,

and know the blessing of taking our rightful place.

We pray in Jesus' name....

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

*THE PEACE [*Please simply say "Peace be with you" with a nod or wave.*]

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*GLORIA

Hymnal #759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING What a Friend We Have in Jesus – arr. Joel Raney

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

HISTORICAL WITNESS Genesis 1.1 -2.4a [from the Message Bible]

1 1-2 First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

3-5 God spoke: "Light!"

And light appeared.

God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day,
he named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning—
Day One.

6-8 God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters;
separate water from water!"

God made sky.

He separated the water under sky
from the water above sky.

And there it was:

he named sky the Heavens;

It was evening, it was morning—
Day Two.

9-10 God spoke: "Separate!

Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place;

Land, appear!"

And there it was.

God named the land Earth.

He named the pooled water Ocean.

God saw that it was good.

¹¹⁻¹³ God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties
of seed-bearing plants,

Every sort of fruit-bearing tree."

And there it was.

Earth produced green seed-bearing plants,
all varieties,

And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Three.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ God spoke: "Lights! Come out!

Shine in Heaven's sky!

Separate Day from Night.

Mark seasons and days and years,
Lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth."

And there it was.

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ God made two big lights, the larger
to take charge of Day,

The smaller to be in charge of Night;
and he made the stars.

God placed them in the heavenly sky
to light up Earth

And oversee Day and Night,
to separate light and dark.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Four.

²⁰⁻²³ God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!

Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!"

God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the waters,

And every kind and species of flying birds.

God saw that it was good.

God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!

Birds, reproduce on Earth!"

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Five.

²⁴⁻²⁵ God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds."

And there it was:

wild animals of every kind,

Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.

God saw that it was good.

²⁶⁻²⁸ God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them
reflecting our nature

So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

God created human beings;
he created them godlike,
Reflecting God's nature.
He created them male and female.
God blessed them:
"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."
²⁹⁻³⁰ Then God said, "I've given you
every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,
given them to you for food.
To all animals and all birds,
everything that moves and breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food."
And there it was.
³¹ God looked over everything he had made;
it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six.
2 Heaven and Earth were finished,
down to the last detail.
²⁻⁴ By the seventh day
God had finished his work.
On the seventh day
he rested from all his work.
God blessed the seventh day.
He made it a Holy Day
Because on that day he rested from his work,
all the creating God had done.
This is the story of how it all started,
of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

"Created to Care"

HYMN #32

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Hymnal #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

“How Great Thou Art”

See Insert

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

TIP FOR GOING GREEN: Stop using single use plastic bottles. Use a refillable water bottle instead.

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer were written by Rev. Teri Peterson.

Bolded text is intended to be read in unison by the whole congregation.

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This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Cindy Giambarberee & Holly Petersen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: April Swenson. FLOWERS: Lana, for Paul's Birthday. COFFEE: Cochran's.

CALLED TO CARE: Paris Donehoo. SEXTON: Frank Styzek. ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Jo Scott.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Barbara Blye, Cindy Giambarberee & Holly Petersen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. FLOWERS:. COFFEE:. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON:

Doug Petersen. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

The Week Ahead at St. John:

- **Trinity Sunday** – Sunday, May 26 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, May 26 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Christian Education Memorial Day Planting** – Sunday, May 26
 - **PADS Summer Supper** – Sunday, May 26 at 6:30 P.M.
 - **Memorial Day Holiday / Office Closed** – Monday, May 27
 - **Bible Study** – Tuesday, May 28 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Women's Spirituality Group** – Thursday, May 30 at 6:30 P.M.
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Sponsoring Flowers: If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for Sunday service, you may now sponsor one bouquet for \$20 or \$40 for both. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Janice.

St. John Social Potluck: The second Saturday of the month finds Fellowship Hall filled with good food, good friends and good conversation. On 6/8 we have fun creating dishes that start with “C” or have ingredients that start with “C”. On 7/13 join us for an All-American Potluck. We meet at 6pm. All are welcome so join us for an evening of fun and community.

St. John Book Club: Come join us as we gather to discuss books we are reading. Book Club meets at 2pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. On 6/10 we will share our ideas on First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston. See the bulletin for the books we will be reading for 7/8 & 8/12. Book Club is open to all. Join us whenever one of our selections tickles your fancy.

PADS Update / Summer Suppers at St. John: This summer we will again participate in the Summer Suppers program with 16 other faith communities. We will serve dinner to our PADS guests and any other community members who are food insecure. All are welcome. We will serve dinner from 6:30pm - 7:30pm at St. John UCC on the 4th Sunday of the month. We will collect non-perishable items for the guests to

take with them as they leave the dinner. **We will also collect new / gently used (washed) sleeping bags & small (1-2 person) tents for our PADS guests who will sleep outside this summer.** Non-perishable items can be dropped off at St. John UCC (308 N. Evergreen Avenue) at the front entrance between 10:00am - 2:00pm on 6/8 and 8/10. Summer Suppers Sign up - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45ADAA28A7F4CE9-48790449-stjohn#/> Thank you! Barbara Jo, Kathy and Michelle

May 26, 2024 / Trinity Sunday (1st Sunday after Pentecost) / “Mysterious Encounter” / John 3:1–17

Maybe you don't think of friendship all that often, but friendship is a truly radical act. Friendship has no real purpose. Friends choose each other, without blood ties, without, as the scientists say, “the imperative of procreation,” often outside the bounds of geography. And yet even though friendship has a sort of ambiguous status in our culture (we both diminish the relationship of friendship “it's nothing serious: they're just friends” and uphold it, as in “he has many acquaintances, but few friends”), most of us seem to yearn for it.

Theologian Sallie McFague says of the relationships in our lives: “one does not choose one's parents, and even falling in love seems to have a kind of destiny about it, but friends choose to be together...your mother desires your existence, and your lover finds you valuable, but your friend **LIKES** you!”

But don't confuse LIKE with ALIKE. Because the alchemy that brews the mysterious metal of individuals into the pure gold of real friendship is not necessarily commonality. It's not necessarily about looking at each other, so much as it's about looking ahead in the same direction. A lot of times, it's having a task or goal that you can work on together that helps cement a friendship bond – the mission project, the facilities work day, the book club.

Trinity Sunday is today. It is one day when we pause to marvel that our God is both One and Three. It is one day to remind ourselves that our God is a God of relationship, of friendship that creates and flourishes in a dance of delight and Divine love.

What if it's on purpose that everything was created out of this Holy Love Dance? What if how God is created – three, one, whirling, creating, loving - is part of the plan of things? What if friendship is how it all started, how it all is sustained? What if friendship (that ambiguous but somehow important word) is what God wants of us, what God has called us here for now? What if God has that radical friendship love for us, has had it since the beginning?

Look around you. Perhaps you are sitting with friends right now. How do these friends show you more about God's work in the world?



www.stjah.org

ST. JOHN UCC OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT



The congregation of St. John United Church of Christ rejoices that our community of faith is strengthened by diversity. We declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, extending God's extravagant welcome to all people regardless of culture, economic status, age, sex, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, marital status, or physical/mental condition. We invite everyone to join our journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our congregation.