

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

*Created
to Care*



*Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 2, 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

June 2, 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**)

Look to the skies — clear or clouded, God's handiwork

We look up in wonder!

Feel the rain and hear the thunder

We know the power hidden in the depths!

Look to the stars — the vast expanse of the heavens

We look up and feel so small!

Feel the wind blowing over waters and land

We breathe in the Spirit of creation!

See the sun rise and set, coloring the world

We give thanks for God's mercies — new every morning!

*OPENING HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning.
Born of the one light, Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning.
God's re-creation of the new day.

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Your power and glory overwhelm us: we stand in awe at the complexity of your works, all unique yet inter-related. From the unplumbed depths to the outer reaches your word creates, even still.

With gratitude and wonder, we bring our praise.

With humility and hope we bring our questions.

With trust and love we bring our whole selves to meet you here. Amen.

***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

Be Unto Your Name

CCLI Song # 2177476 Gary Sadler | Lynn DeShazo © 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music For use solely with the SongSelect © Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 3266027

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Job 38.1-27

³⁸Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸ 'Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?

¹² 'Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³ so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal,
and it is dyed like a garment.

¹⁵ Light is withheld from the wicked,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶ 'Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

¹⁹ 'Where is the way to the dwelling of light,
and where is the place of darkness,

²⁰ that you may take it to its territory
and that you may discern the paths to its home?

²¹ Surely you know, for you were born then,
and the number of your days is great!

²² 'Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,

²³ which I have reserved for the time of trouble,
for the day of battle and war?

²⁴ What is the way to the place where the light is distributed,
or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

²⁵ 'Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain,

and a way for the thunderbolt,
²⁶ to bring rain on a land where no one lives,
on the desert, which is empty of human life,
²⁷ to satisfy the waste and desolate land,
and to make the ground put forth grass?

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“You Have No Idea”

HYMN #26 Stanzas 1-4

“We Worship You God”

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

If You But Trust in God to Guide You – David Cherwien

*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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION [All are welcome.]

Invitation and Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*CLOSING HYMN #332

“As We Gather at Your Table”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Minor – J. S. Bach

TIP FOR GOING GREEN: Stop using plastic straws. Drink without a straw, or carry your own metal reusable straws. When ordering out, request “no straw”.

*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: Barbara Blye, Cindy Giambarberee & Holly Petersen. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barbara Blye. FLOWERS:. COFFEE:. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON: Doug Petersen. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Judy Grimes & Dennis Roesslein. ANNOUNCEMENTS: April Swenson. FLOWERS:. COFFEE: Barbara & Glenn Ahrenholz and April & Mark Swenson. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Doug Petersen. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

The Week Ahead at St. John:

- **Mission Committee Meeting** – Sunday, June 2 at 9:15 A.M.
 - **Second Sunday after Pentecost** – Sunday, June 2 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, June 2 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Buffalo Grove Pride Parade** – Sunday, June 2 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Girl Scouts Troop Meeting** – Tuesday, June 4 at 4:15 P.M.
 - **Spiritual Life Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, June 4 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Building Closed All Day** – Wednesday, June 5
 - **Cards** – Thursday, June 6 at 1:00 P.M.
 - **Summer Supper Non-Perishable Food Drop-Off** – Saturday, June 8, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
 - **St. John Social Potluck** – Saturday, June 8 at 6:00 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

June 2, 2024 / Second Sunday after Pentecost / “Stretch Out Your Hand” / Mark 2:23-3:6

Today’s passage from Mark contains two short stories about how the presence of Jesus reveals the reign of God in ordinary things. The first story concerns feeding people on the day of rest, which violates the strict laws of the religious leaders of the time. The second begins on the same day, with Jesus going to the place of worship, *again*.

You might skip quickly over the *again* that starts the story in order to get to the main action of the story when a man with a “withered hand” is healed by Jesus, another act on the sabbath day that draws the ire of the authorities.

But let’s pause here, on the *again*. The *again* tells us that this is not the first time that Jesus and the people with him have gathered here, at the place of worship. Is it the first time that they saw the man with the withered hand? We don’t know. In fact, we don’t know very much about the man, except for that one descriptor.

Perhaps the man had been “withered” since birth, and had taken up residence in the temple, impoverished and hoping to beg or borrow enough money for his sacrificial offering. Maybe the man was a busy and wealthy landowner with a recent injury who had just popped into the temple to see what all the fuss about this new teacher was about. Maybe he himself was one of Jesus’ followers, and his hand was only the object of attention for the first time that day.

But, poor or prosperous, connected or lonely, we know that he did not ask for healing. Again, we don’t know why. Maybe he had been coming to the temple every day for years hoping for healing that never came until he just gave up. Maybe he did not ask for healing because he felt he did not need it. Or maybe he did not ask, because he hadn’t yet worked up the courage. But whatever his reason, Jesus offered healing anyway.

Here you are, dear reader, in worship on a Sabbath day. Maybe you have come from a long habit, as you have week after week, almost giving up hope for healing. Maybe you feel that your life is just fine without Jesus’ healing touch, but you popped in for some other reason. Maybe you haven’t been able to articulate, even to yourself, what you need today, let alone say it aloud. Whatever the reason, Jesus extends his hand to you now and offers you healing. You don’t even have to ask. The living Christ knows what you need and offers it to you without question, conversation or negotiation. May you receive the healing that Christ extends!



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.