

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

*Created
to Care*



*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 16, 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/stjohnuccah

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 16, 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**)

Praise the Lord!

With all our heart and soul, we bless the Lord.

Praise the One who creates with joy!

We join all creation rejoicing in God's providing.

Praise the Creator who delights in the life of the world.

Hallelujah! Bless the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN #12

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

There is a place in your creation for everyone and everything, O God.

For wild animals and singing birds, for grasslands and mountains,

for farms and bread ovens, for people and pets, you have made a place.

Teach us today to thrive together, as you intended. 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

His Mercy is More

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FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

HISTORICAL WITNESS (Pastor and **People**)

Psalm 104.1-24

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

³ **you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,**

you make the clouds your chariot,

you ride on the wings of the wind,

⁴ **you make the winds your messengers,**

fire and flame your ministers.

⁵ You set the earth on its foundations,

so that it shall never be shaken.

⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ At your rebuke they flee;

at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

⁸ **They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys**

to the place that you appointed for them.

⁹ **You set a boundary that they may not pass,**

so that they might not again cover the earth.

¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys;

they flow between the hills,

¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal;

the wild asses quench their thirst.

¹² **By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;**

they sing among the branches.

¹³ **From your lofty abode you water the mountains;**

the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,

and plants for people to use,

to bring forth food from the earth,

¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart,

oil to make the face shine,

and bread to strengthen the human heart.

**16 The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.**

**17 In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.**

**18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.**

19 You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.

20 You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

21 The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

22 When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.

23 People go out to their work
and to their labor until the evening.

**24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures**

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“Pure Joy”

HYMN #36

“To God Compose A Song of Joy”

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Father's Day Tribute - Arr. Ruth E. Schram

*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 #4

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

*BENEDICTION

TIP FOR GOING GREEN: Buy reusable glass spray bottles and make your own cleaning products. Do away with the one-time plastic bottles, and the harsh chemicals. <https://www.chop.edu/news/10-non-toxic-diy-cleaning-products>

*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: Judy Grimes & Cindy Giambarberree.
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Cindy Giambarberree. FLOWERS: Kaves. COFFEE: Linda & Laura Janus.
CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: Doug Petersen. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Holly Petersen & Dennis Roesslein.
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judy Grimes. FLOWERS: Laura Janus. COFFEE: PADS Team. CALLED TO CARE: Paris Donehoo. SEXTON: Doug Petersen. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

The Week Ahead at St. John:

- **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Graduation Sunday & Father's Day**
– Sunday, June 16 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, June 16 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Stewardship Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Cards** – Thursday, June 20 at 1:00 P.M.
 - **Mission Committee Meeting** – Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 P.M.
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Women's Spirituality Group: The Women's Spirituality Group is hosting a tour of Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford on Tuesday, June 25th. We will carpool from church at 9:00am and our tour is at 10:30am. The cost for the tour and garden admission is \$14 for adults, and \$12 for seniors (62+). We will be eating lunch at the gardens in their Fresco restaurant. Everyone will be able to order off of the menu and pay for their own lunch. We are limited to 25 people. All are welcome to join us. To reserve your spot, please give a check for your tour/garden admission (\$14 for adults, \$12 for those 62 or older) to Holly Petersen by Sunday, June 16th. Please make your check out to Holly. Paid reservations must be made by June 16th as we need to let the garden and restaurant know our final number on the 17th.

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 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. 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 8/10. Summer Suppers Sign up - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45ADAA28A7F4CE9-48790449-stjohn#/> Thank you!
Barbara Jo, Kathy and Michelle

June 16, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
“Flourishing”
Mark 4:26–34

Jesus spoke to his followers in a parable about planting seeds. In cold climates, seeds planted can take many months to grow into plants and bear fruit. The job of gardeners and farmers is not only patience. The job is also to tend; to fertilize and water and weed until at last the fragile plants break forth, and then leaves, then flowers and finally produce. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

This week, many congregations will be celebrating Juneteenth. Juneteenth has been celebrated for generations in African-American communities, although for some communities this will be the first year that this celebration is acknowledged. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

The seeds of Juneteenth were planted on June 19th, 1865 when troops rode into Galveston, Texas announcing the end of the civil war, and the freedom of all enslaved Americans. This was good news, yes. But this good news came more than two and half years after the signing of the emancipation proclamation. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

Juneteenth was heartily celebrated in the early part of the 20th century with rodeos, speakers, preachers, music, worship and heaping tables of food, but those celebrations were largely shut down during the Jim Crow era. Recognition of Juneteenth began to be revived in black communities by activists in the 1960s and 1970s. The first legislation to make Juneteenth a national holiday was introduced in 1996. The legislation was finally signed into law in 2021. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

Whether your Juneteenth celebration this year is generations old, or is new this year, remember that it is the fruit of a seed planted decades before you were born. And the cycle does not end with this generation. As is the nature of growing things, the fruit that you enjoy in this season will produce seeds that will also, in their time, bear fruit. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit. May the seeds you plant this Juneteenth, however small or mighty, grow beautiful fruit in its season.*



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.