

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Sunday, May 29, 2022

9:30 am

INTRODUCTION

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude, "In Dulci Jubilo"

J. S. Bach

+ Gathering +

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Gather Us In (ELW 532)

The congregation may stand and face the cross. The congregation may turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried forward.

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty,
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things,
sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us.

We bless you for these gifts of water:

Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, and the Skokie Lagoons.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power:

Noah and the animals survive the flood,

Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism

joined to your life-giving Word:

your well of mercy and cleansing flood,

your sea of deliverance from death into life,

your healing river washing sin away,

your living water springing up to eternal life.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love.

Clothe us and all your people with grace.

Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy.

Guide us to walk humbly with you,
whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

All-loving God, your Beloved Child was taken into the heavens, and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end, bring everything into your glory. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶ Once when we were going to prayer, we met a household worker who was possessed by a spirit of divination, and who made a great deal of money for her employers through its fortune telling. ¹⁷ She began to follow Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These are faithful followers of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation!” ¹⁸ She did this for many days. Finally one day Paul lost his temper, and turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to leave this woman!” It left her that moment.

¹⁹ When her employers saw that their profitable operation was now hopelessly dead, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities in the public square. ²⁰ They brought them to the chief magistrates and said, “These people are Jews and are disturbing the peace ²¹ by advocating practices which are unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” ²² The crowd joined in the attack on them, and the magistrates stripped them and ordered them to be flogged. ²³ They were whipped many times and thrown into prison, and the jailer was told to keep a close watch on them. ²⁴ So, following these instructions, the warden threw them into the innermost cell of the prison and chained their feet to a stake.

²⁵ About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as the other prisoners listened. ²⁶ Suddenly a severe earthquake shook the place, rocking the prison to its foundation. Immediately all the doors flew open, and everyone’s chains were pulled loose. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and found the doors wide open, he drew a sword and was about to commit suicide, presuming that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We’re all still here.” ²⁹ The jailer called for a light, then rushed in and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas, and, ³⁰ after a brief interval, led them out and asked them, “What must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They answered, “Believe in Jesus the Savior, and you will be saved—you and everyone in your household.” ³² They proceeded to preach the word of God to the jailer and his whole household.

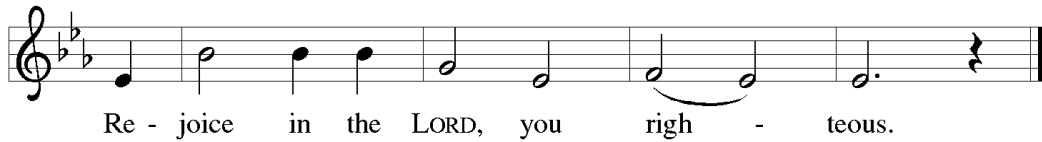
³³ At that late hour of the night he took them in and bathed their wounds; then he and the whole household were baptized. ³⁴ He led them up into his house, spread a table before them, and the whole family joyfully celebrated their newfound faith in God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation sings the antiphon and the verses in bold.

Antiphon:



Psalm Tone:



- ¹The LORD reigns; let the ¹ earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the ¹ isles be glad.
- ²**Clouds and darkness sur- ¹ round the LORD,**
righteousness and justice are the foundations ¹ of God's throne.
- ³Fire goes be- ¹ fore the LORD,
burning up enemies on ¹ every side.
- ⁴**Lightnings light ¹ up the world;**
the earth ¹ sees and trembles.
- ⁵The mountains ¹ melt like wax
before the Lord of ¹ all the earth.
- ⁶**The heavens declare your righteous- ¹ ness, O LORD,**
and all the peoples ¹ see your glory. Antiphon
- ⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight ¹ in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, ¹ all you gods.
- ⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- ¹ dah rejoice,**
because of your judg- ¹ ments, O LORD.
- ⁹For you are the LORD, most high over ¹ all the earth;
you are exalted far a- ¹ bove all gods.
- ¹⁰**You who love the ¹ LORD, hate evil!**
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them
from the hand ¹ of the wicked.
- ¹¹Light dawns ¹ for the righteous,
and joy for the hon- ¹ est of heart.
- ¹²**Rejoice in the ¹ LORD, you righteous,**
and give thanks to God's ¹ holy name. Antiphon

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand and turn to continue facing the cross as it is brought among the people.

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, ⁴⁶ saying, “That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ In the Messiah’s name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all this. ⁴⁹ “Take note: I am sending forth what God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high.” ⁵⁰ Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands blessed the disciples. ⁵¹ While blessing them, the savior left them and was carried up to heaven. ⁵² The disciples worshiped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. ⁵³ They were found in the Temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See page 7.

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ When You Ascended

O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;
Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren't left alone.
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.

We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.

We're tempted. Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told;
Sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old.

Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear —
But your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us here.

It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.
Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two —
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.

One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.

Text: Copyright © 2007 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.
Tune: Lancashire, by Henry Thomas Smart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or lift them to the altar.

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy One, ruler of heaven and earth, wash us in your Holy Spirit and make us witnesses to your resurrected life in this community. Let our fellowship be a sign to others of the presence of Christ.
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through thundering, mighty waters reveal your creative power at work in creation. Cleanse the air, land, and waters with the movement of your Spirit and the participation of your people. God,
in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In faithful and diverse worship, turn all people toward you and your loving will for humankind. Bridge differences among traditions and across faiths. Unite us in mission for the sake of a world in need. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the suffering and death of Jesus, draw near to those who suffer and for whom death approaches. Hold them in the palm of your loving hand and give them rest. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Inspire us through the music, dance, and other arts ministries of this congregation. With clapping, shouting, singing, playing, and moving, let our bodies bear witness to the joy you alone can give. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*)

God, in your mercy, *or* Lord, we praise you,
hear our prayer. **Thanks be to God.**

Rouse us to remember the faithful witness of the saints who have gone before us. By their lives and the life and death of Jesus, enlighten our hearts, give us hope, and lead us in wisdom. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

INVITATION TO OFFERING

During this season of Easter, we are inspired by the beloved community of the early church, where resources were shared by all. We, too, seek to share our resources so that we can live in harmony, balance, and mutuality with one another. Following the example of the earliest Christians, we offer our gifts now, so that the ministry of this church may continue to participate in God's compassion and renewal.

OFFERING


*We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's!
Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online at stjohnswilmette.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Organ Sonata No. 3, "Andante"

Felix Mendelssohn

OFFERTORY VERSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

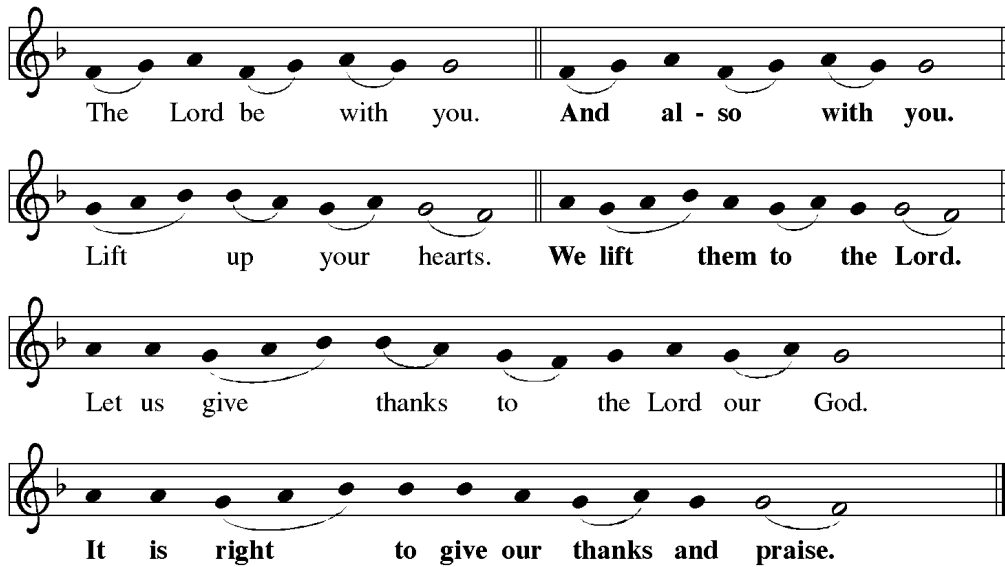
**God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure.**

**Word and water, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.**

**Receive the gifts we bring,
and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.**

Amen.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Those worshipping online are invited to raise their bread and wine along with the pastor to be blessed.

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION

COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher, maintaining social distancing. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table next to you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket. Please put your mask back on before returning to your seat. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION HYMNS

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (ELW 461)



1 All who hun - ger, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
 2 All who hun - ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
 3 All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Living God,

**as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord,
we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ.**

**Through this meal, may we be strengthened
to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION VERSE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds in † Christ Jesus.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! (ELW 393)
The congregation may turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried out.

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
 4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers
 sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they
 sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.
 say, "this is his glo-rious tri - umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
 Go in peace. Tell everyone what God has done.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Organ Sonata No. 2, "Allegro Maestoso"

Felix Mendelssohn

COFFEE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sesquicentennial Memorial Day Unity March & Ceremony

As part of Wilmette's Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee is observing Memorial Day (May 30) by conducting a special Unity March and Ceremony to honor the 110 Wilmette men and women who died while serving their country in time of war. Representatives from Wilmette's civic, service, governmental, religious, business, and other organizations/groups are invited to participate in the march and attend the ceremony. Pastor Allison will be leading a group from St. John's in marching together. If you'd like to march, please meet at the St. Joseph's parking lot at 9:30 am on Monday, May 30. The 0.9-mile march will begin at 10:30 am and conclude at Village Hall. The ceremony will begin at 11:30 am on the green in front of Village Hall. Wilmette native Michael Rogers, retired Naval Admiral and former head of the nation's cyber security, will deliver the Memorial Day speech.

Evanston's Interfaith Reparations Effort & Community Launch Event

Interfaith leaders in the Evanston area, including Pastor Allison, are joining together to support Evanston's groundbreaking reparations program. The Interfaith Reparations Effort will include educational opportunities about reparations, accountable partnership building (atonement, truth-telling, history sharing), financial contributions to the Evanston Reparations Community Fund, and supporting the national reparations movement and H.R. 40. All are invited to our Community Launch Event on Monday, June 13th at 12 pm at Fountain Square in Evanston. Speakers will include clergy, elected officials, and representatives from the Reparations Stakeholders Authority of Evanston.

Funds Secured for a St. John's Brick

We are happy to report that we have reached our goal raising of \$250 for a large-sized commemorative brick to be included in Wilmette's new pedestrian alleyway in the Village Center. Thank you so much for your generosity! We look forward to seeing our church's name engraved in this central walkway for years to come.

Visitors for Sarah

Sarah Rink, a regular participant at the Saturday service and now a participant in Sunday morning services, is looking for folks who would be willing to visit her in her home (1900 Wilmette Ave. #2F). She is experiencing chronic pain, and having visitors would be a great blessing in her life. She is open to hosting visitors at 4 pm or 5 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Sarah is fully vaccinated and happy to wear a mask if that is preferred. Please give her a call at 847-251-2758 to let her know when you can stop by!

Mask Update

Masks are now optional for activities at St. John's with the important exceptions of worship and youth programming. Worship leaders, including cantors/song leaders, may now remove masks while leading, but the congregation will remain masked and socially distanced from leaders. If you have any questions or concerns about our current policy, please contact our Re-Entry Team (Pastor Allison, Michel Hauser, Al Swanson, Christi Wise).

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