



General Giving



Delicious



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T-Shirts

**St.  
John's  
United  
Church  
of Christ**

401 N. Main St.  
P. O. Box 794  
Belvidere, IL  
61008

**February  
18th, 2024**

**Christian  
Education**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Worship**

**10:30 A.M.**

# St. John's United Church of Christ

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Thank you for coming! Please sign a pew card to place in the offering plate.

Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 9am-Noon [stjohns401.org](http://stjohns401.org)  
(815)544-3773 [stjohnsucc401@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsucc401@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977  
[murielmorley@gmail.com](mailto:murielmorley@gmail.com)  
**Pastoral Associate:** Beth Carson 815-544-6834  
**Minister of Music:** Mary Albrecht 815-547-7503  
**Choir Director:** Jeanne Anderson 815-985-2652

**Nursery:** The nursery is open! Please check downstairs and meet with the nursery attendant before leaving your child.

## You Are Not Alone

*The following support groups meet regularly at St. John's*

- AL-ANON Thursdays at 7pm. at church & on Zoom **Meeting ID:** 3983002123  
**Passcode:** 102964
- Anxiety Support Group Tuesdays at church & on Zoom at 6pm. **Meeting ID:** 862 9227 0691 **Passcode:** 915601
- Open & Affirming Meet Up LGBTQIA+ & Allies welcome! Help plan the next meet up, speak to Pastor Muriel.
- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 1pm & everyday at 7pm. Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm
- T.O.P.S. Mondays 11am

## Community Ministries

**Community Meal:** Every 3rd Wednesday from 5p-6p!

**Blessing Box:** Outside by the Main Street entrance open to all who are hungry 24/7.

**Paper Angel Closet:** Provides supplies to households in need.

# Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone  
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath-ered to-day.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.

Scripture Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

Special Speaker (Online Sermon will be uploaded as a YouTube Video)

Moment for Mission Over Night Cafe

Invitation to Generosity

Our generosity is born out of our identity in a God whose love is unending and offered to all. In gratitude and joy, we are invited to share a portion of our treasure to ensure that all may come to know of this love of God that never ends.

Musical Offering

Doxology

Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kindom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

Hymn "Christ, Be our Light" (Verses 1,2,4 and5)

Benediction

Postlude

*Temptation: Service Prayers for the First Sunday in Lent Year B* was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit "There's Bread for the Journey"

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "There's bread for the cup of for- jour - ney and friends for the way. There's hope for to - give - ness, all bless - ings re - lease, to heal and re - -mor - row and love for to - day. The - new us and bring us God's peace." The score includes guitar chords such as A, A/G#, F#m, E, B7, D/A, A/B, and B7sus. It features a first ending and a second ending.

**Responsive Welcome Statement** (Leader Speaks Plain Font, **All Speak Bold Font**)

At St. John's United Church of Christ, we are Living Outwardly & Valuing Everyone!

**We live and work amid God's love!**

In that spirit, we extend love to all who come into our midst, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities, age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all aspects of church.

**Our ministry is to bring the Good News of Christ's love to all.**

We work in God's name to tear down walls and build community,

**to walk with each other through all of life's circumstances,**

to provide for those in need,

**to offer comfort to the hurting and the sick,**

and to uplift the brokenhearted.

**Where we fail, we ask for God's forgiveness.**

May the Holy Spirit and our siblings continue to challenge us to do better.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!****Call to Worship**

The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, "You are my beloved, and I love you."

**We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.**

With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God's Kingdom.

**With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.**

Embrace your belovedness.

**We rejoice in God's unending love for us!****Invocation**

God of waters and deserts, God of hope and horizons, we celebrate your presence among us and among all your people. You have proclaimed that Jesus was beloved and, tenderly, you have claimed us as your own. Open the skies. Break through the clouds. Fall softly upon our shoulders and say our names with joy.

For this day and each day, no matter what the other voices may say, we are your beloved and we rejoice in your inbreaking Kingdom. Amen and Amen!

**Hymn #164 "Arise, Your Light is Come"**

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing: God's power will make us strong.

**Children's Time****Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer****Hymn #211 "Lord Jesus, who through 40 Days"**

Lord Jesus, who through forty days for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,  
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion tide,  
Yes, ever more, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,  
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

O God of love, as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses of our own. We are tempted to forget your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the destructive voices of power and oppression. Free us from our own hubris. Help us to reclaim our spiritual center as rooted in your love. Open our being to hearing your voice proclaim us as your child who is welcomed, held, and whole. Amen.

**Words of Grace**

Friends, through wilderness and desert, through sacraments born of water, you are a child of God held tenderly in the embrace of our Creator. Remember your baptism. Remember a path has been made for you. Remember you are not alone. Remember, that in Christ Jesus you are forgiven and made whole. Amen.

**Gloria Patri**

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.