



General Giving



Delicious



Amazon List



T-Shirts

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

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

**January  
14, 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** stjohs401.org  
(815)544-3773 stjohsucc401@gmail.com

**Pastor:** Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977  
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.

**Fellowship Potluck** Today after worship we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Church family Lunch. All are Welcome!

**Pastor Swap** Today Pastor Muriel is switching pulpits with the **Rev. Ted Engelsdorfer** of Union Congregational Church in Somonauk, IL. Welcome Rev. Ted and thank you for sharing with us today!

## *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 1pm & 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.

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit "Step by Step"**

**Oh God, You are my God  
and I will ever praise You  
Oh God, You are my God  
and I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning  
and I will learn to walk in Your ways  
and Step by step You'll lead me  
and I will follow You all of my days!**

**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!**

**Invocation**

**Sovereign One, we acknowledge your presence among us. Stir up the gifts you have planted among us. Hold us in your care and present a mirror before us so that we may know ourselves as you have known us. Strengthen us in your mercy and let your grace propel us to renewal and righteousness. Lift us so that might arise in spirit and in truth for your glory. Amen.**

Hymn        **“You Have Searched Me, Lord, And Known Me”**  
*Nettleton 8.7.8.7 (“Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”*  
*Lyrics by Carolyn and Bruce Gillette*

You have searched me, Lord, and known me!  
All my life is in your care.  
When I lie awake in evening,  
You are always with me there.  
When I rise to greet the morning  
I in an attitude of praise,  
What I learn from you is humbling:  
You already know my ways.

Lord, you know the song I'm singing  
and my words before I pray.  
You're behind me and before me  
As I travel through each day.  
You once knit me all together;  
You created me by grace.  
In your eyes, you see and love me  
As you treasure all my days.

Lord, I try to learn your wisdom,  
But I cannot understand.  
Yet your love is all around me;  
I am part of all you've planned.  
Let me sing your praise each morning,  
Let me serve you all day through,  
And in evening, make me peaceful,  
Knowing this: I'm loved by you!

**\*Responsive Psalm 139: 1-18, 23-24**

O LORD, you have searched us and known us.  
**You know when we sit down and when we rise up;  
you discern our thoughts from far away.**  
You search out our path and our lying down  
and are acquainted with all our ways.  
**Even before a word is on our tongues,  
O LORD, you know it completely.**  
You hem us in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon us.  
**Such knowledge is too wonderful for us;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

# Here I Am, Lord

574



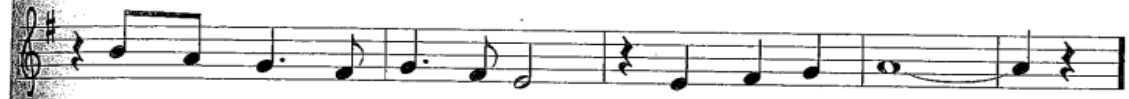
1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright,  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Where can we go from your spirit?  
 Or where can we flee from your presence?  
**If we ascend to heaven, you are there;  
 if we make our bed in Sheol, you are there.**

If we take the wings of the morning  
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
 even there your hand shall lead us,  
 and your right hand shall hold us fast.  
**If we say, "Surely the darkness shall cover us,  
 and night wraps itself around us,"  
 even the darkness is not dark to you;  
 the night is as bright as the day,  
 for darkness is as light to you.**

For it was you who formed our inward parts;  
 you knit us together in our mothers' womb.  
**We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.  
 Wonderful are your works;  
 that we know very well.**

Our frame was not hidden from you,  
 when we was being made in secret,  
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
**Your eyes beheld our unformed substance.**  
 In your book were written

all the days that were formed for us,  
 when none of them as yet existed.  
**How weighty to us are your thoughts, O God!  
 How vast is the sum of them!**

**We try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
 We come to the end—we are still with you.**

Search us, O God, and know our hearts;  
 test us and know our thoughts.

**See if there is any wicked way in us,  
 and lead us in the way everlasting.**

**Words of Grace**

Beloved creation of God, the Holy One knows you fully, completely, and affirmative from the secret places of your innermost parts. Receive the knowing as a gift of assurance that God's grace is sufficient for new life. God will abide with us as we strive to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

**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.**

**NCH # 885 UCC Statement of Faith**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:  
You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.  
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.  
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.  
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.  
You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.  
You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.**

**Children's Time**

**Hymn "Here I Am Lord" see page 8**

**Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer**

**Scripture 1 Samuel 3:1-20**

**Sermon "Roast Beef" by Special Guest Rev. Ted Engelsdorfer**

**Moment for Mission Sri Lanka Partnership**

**Invitation to Generosity**

Reader: The generous life rests on gratitude and trust in God's abundance. As we give, we acknowledge that we have communally received more than enough to meet our collective needs. Our offerings serve to realize the reign of

God's kingdom on the earth.

**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**

**Generous God, cultivate and nurture gratitude and trust in us. May our gifts be used for the benefit of the kingdom and all creation in your name.  
Amen.**

**Hymn #448 "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"**

**1 Take my life, God, let it be  
consecrated faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
2 Take my spirit, let it move  
at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use  
all its powers as you choose.  
3 Take my will; your will be done!  
Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by your grace  
make of it your dwelling place.  
4 Take my love and help it grow;  
let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be  
part of Christ's community.**

**Benediction**

Go in the peace of being fully known by God.  
Go in the hope that God has in you to transform the world.  
Go in the love of neighbor and friend.  
Go in the assurance that God still goes with you. Amen.

**Postlude**