



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

**March 10,  
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.

Welcome Rev. Hank Fairman from St. John United Church of Christ in Freeport. Hank is Prairie Association's President and is very involved with the IL conference and National UCC.

## *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.

### **Easter Bulb Sign-Up**

Help make the sanctuary beautiful during Easter morning worship with Spring Bulbs. Bulbs are \$12 each; the deadline is **March 17th**. Please give order form and money to Pastor Muriel. If paying by check, please make it out to St. John's UCC.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Muriel at [murielmorley@gmail.com](mailto:murielmorley@gmail.com) or 815-544-2977

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark your choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth

## *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 every other 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



## **March 16th**

9AM Volunteers & vendors Arrive

11 AM Sale & Silent Auction Opens

12:30 PM Kid's Easter Egg Hunt

1:30 PM Silent Auction Ends

3 PM Sale Closes and Raffle Drawing

**Bake Sale Item Welcome. Please bring Saturday Morning. We need Greeters, Raffle Attendants, Egg Hunt Organizers and Silent Auction Attendants**

# God the Sculptor of the Mountains 5



1 God the scul - tor of the moun - tains, God the  
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the  
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the  
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the



mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the  
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the  
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the  
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing



heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:  
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:  
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:  
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion;  
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;  
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;  
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;



we are form - less; shape us now.  
 we are aim - less; lead us now.  
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.  
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

TEXT: John Thornburg, 1993, alt. JENNINGS-HOUSTON  
 MUSIC: Amanda Husberg, 1995 8.7.8.7.8.7  
 Text © 1993 John Thornburg  
 Music © 1996 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

## Prelude

## Announcements

### Choral Introit #433 "In My Life Lord"

### 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 (Leader Speaks Plain Font, All Speak Bold Font)

We come from north, south, east, and west to proclaim:

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

We come carrying heartbreak and hope to proclaim:

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

We come as children, full of exuberance and uncertainty, to proclaim:

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

We come as elders, bearing wisdom and exhaustion, to proclaim:

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

We come to worship to proclaim:

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

### Invocation

**God of the wanderers, be with us as we travel through your Word today.**

**Your infinite patience with us blows us all away. You know every reason**

**we give ourselves to not come, to not confess, to not share in fellowship.**

**But you again said, "Not this time. It is time to rejoice." Amid the complex**

**moments in our lives, and the simple distractions that come in front of us,**

**you call us to set aside time to sit, and to be quiet, and to stand up, and to**

**sing praises. You have so loved the world, and loved us in turn, and we**

**give you thanks. Challenge us to love the world, and all your creation, as you do—to bless it with an eternal life.  
Guide us to love and be loved. Amen.**

**Hymn “God the Sculptor of the Mountain” Page 6**  
*From Glory to God #5, Words, © 1993 John Thornburg/ Music, © 1996 Abingdon Press*

### Childrens Time

**Pastoral Prayer – The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn #208 “God Loved the World”**

### Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**God of Moses, we can relate to the Israelites in the desert. We know that it is easier to condemn and criticize than to redeem and reflect, long for what we had than to imagine what could be. We know how simple it is to get stuck in places of anger and condemnation. When we cry out against you, as the people cried out to Moses, please be patient with us, and grant us the courage to choose gratitude and hope whenever possible. Amen.**

### Words of Grace

Through Jesus, we do not find condemnation, through Jesus, we find salvation. As sure as the sun rises, know that by grace and through grace, you have been redeemed.

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

**Scripture Numbers 21:4-9  
John 3:1-21**

**Sermon “End Zone Theology”**

**Moment for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing**

### Invitation to Generosity

Friends in Christ, God’s ancient, steadfast love is not a love that simply waits for us. God’s love comes seeking us, so that we might have life abundant.

Our giving this morning, whether we have been lost and wandering, or secure and safe, expresses our firm conviction that God is with us, no matter what. Let us gather our gifts together, and offer them to God in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.

### 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

Gracious God,  
we choose to give, as a way of giving thanks  
for the gifts that we have received,  
for the love that we have shared,  
for the healing we have felt.  
Use these gifts, generously offered, for the building of your beloved community  
where steadfast love will endure forever. Amen.

**Hymn #547 “Amazing Grace”**

### Benediction

### Postlude

*The words for today’s worship come from Season FUSION for Lent/Easter, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B, © 2020 Wood Lake Publishing Inc.*