

When Thomas Heard from Jesus
(Tune The Church's One Foundation)

When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me,"
He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.
He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;
He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.

When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say,
"We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?"
He wanted understanding of what he could not see.
Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me."

When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry,
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die."
He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread;
Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.

What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord!
Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.
When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;
He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.

That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea;
At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe.
O Lord, may we — like Thomas — keep growing day by day;
Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

Welcome to Worship
April 27, 2025



From: [https://www.carolynshymns.com/
when_thomas_heard_from_jesus.html](https://www.carolynshymns.com/when_thomas_heard_from_jesus.html)

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Christian Education 9am Worship 10:30
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Pastor: Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977
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Minister of Music: Mary Albrecht 815-547-7503
Choir Director: Jeanne Anderson 815-985-2652

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

WORSHIP: When reading this bulletin Leader Speaks Plain Font, Everyone Speak Bold Font

Nursery: Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. The nursery provides an alternative space so kids and parents can both get what they need from worship. Children are encouraged to check in with their adult before going downstairs with the nursery attendant.

You Are Not Alone

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

- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at 7pm.
Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm
- T.O.P.S. Mondays 11am



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

Announcements

- ✚ **Every 3rd Sunday of the month**, St. John's leads services at **Heritage Woods** at 3 pm. Join after their service for time to socialize with the residents and meet some great people.
- ✚ **Cloth Drive** May 10th 9am-noon in the St. John's parking lot. Items accepted: clean clothing, pillows, bedding, fabric, purses, shoes, belts, soft-sided luggage, stuffed animals. Volunteers needed from 8am to noon.
- ✚ **Meals on Wheels** delivery is May 19-23.
- ✚ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm.
- ✚ **Sunday School** ends for the season on May 4th. We will resume in September.
- ✚ **Blessing Box** non perishable are welcome.
- ✚ **Paper Angel Closet** needs toilet paper, paper towels, women's deodorant, bleach, shampoo, and dish soap.
- ✚ **Menards Ministry:** If you have unused Menards rebates, or even receipts. We use these rebates for projects around the church.
- ✚ **Spring Rummage** sale donations are being accepted. The sale is May 2 and 3. Please leave donations in the room next to the kitchen, but DO NOT obstruct access to the cupboards or shelves.
- ✚ **Open Door Fundraiser:** We are still collecting money to upgrade our parking lot doors. Our goal is to collect enough money to automate the doors and make it a double entry to hold the temperature in the office area.



St. John's Calendar

Prayer of Dedication– unison

**God, from you comes every bounty.
Every sacrifice of life that sustains ours
is the sacrifice of your beloved.
As we return a small part of the bounty you have
blessed us with,
We pray that it will be used to forge stronger
connections among all creation
Until the whole world is redeemed by your love.**

Hymn #290– Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Benediction

May we go from this place to embody God's love
of all creation.
May we rise like those with wings.
May we know the lightness of those that swim.
May we have the courage of the four-leggeds.
And may the Holy be embodied in all our comings
and goings, this day and every day.
Go in peace to love and serve our God.

Postlude

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit– Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Chorus:

**Bless the Lord, o my soul, o – my soul;
Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, o my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.**

Verse 1:

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before
me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.
Repeat Chorus:**

Responsive Welcome Statement

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 iden-
tity, 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 cir-
cumstances,**

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 chal-
lenge us to do better.

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

Call to Worship– Responsively

In the rising of the morning sun, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Shine!

In the greening of the Earth and blooming of creation, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Grow!

In the mountains reaching toward the sky, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Stand with strength!

In the darkness of the winter days, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Trust!

In the presence of the skies that float above us and the assurance of the Earth beneath us

And with the calm of the Spirit within us, the Holy speaks:

You are my children. Live!

Invocation– unison

Creator God, you call us to take on the holiness you have planted within us. In our worship this day, open our eyes and hearts to your movement that longs to make a home in us. So be it. Amen.

Hymn #22– Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

The Apostles' Creed: an alternative version #882

Children's Time

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn When Thomas Heard from Jesus– *back cover*

Prayer for Transformation and New Life- unison

Holy God,

You have transformed absurd impossibility into reality: resurrection...

You have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias where once there was a gray dawn,

You have called us out of the tombs we inhabit

**into an undreamed of tomorrow,
we praise you for this day!
Come, Risen Christ,
in newness and hope on this Eastertide
day. Amen.**

Words of Grace– Leader

Lord, hear your people as they pray.

Your sins are forgiven, walk in grace

Each and every day. 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.**

Scripture

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31



General Giving

Sermon “Doubt”

Invitation to Generosity– Leader

Moment for Mission

Habitat for Humanity for Boone County

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.