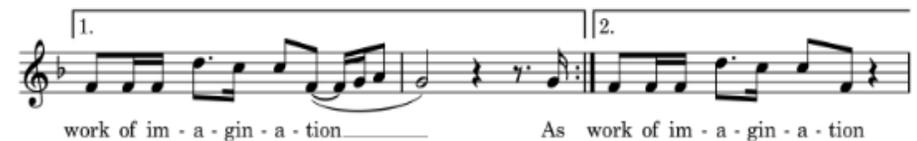


The Work of Imagination

Words and Music by
ANDREA HAMILTON, REBEKAH LOWE,
and AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

Chorus



Outro



Baptism of Eve & Jonah Stucky



St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL
61008stjohns401.org stjohsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977
murielmorley@gmail.com
Pastoral Associate: Beth Carson 815-979-0473
Minister of Music: Mary Albrecht 224-234-7749
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

Announcements

- ✦ **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets at everyday at 7pm.
- ✦ **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray is going weekly! Chair yoga at 10 AM and mat yoga at 11:30 AM. No RSVP required and classes are \$5.
- ✦ **Sunday School for Adults and Kids** Sundays at 9am. Check out the upcoming curriculum options for more studies.
- ✦ **Community Meal** 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- ✦ **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets at everyday at 7pm.
- ✦ **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.



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

scriptures, who crafts stories of redemption, liberation, and love, may these words help us imagine the world you intended. May we receive the challenge to join you in this holy work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow Jesus in love and justice. Amen.

SERMON "ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP"

MOMENT FOR MISSION~ OGHs
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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.

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Generous God, we bring our gifts before you and your church like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. May each gift of every size bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

HYMN "WORK OF IMAGINATION" (BACK PAGE)

CHARGE

Beloved children of God, as you return to the wild wilderness of everyday life, encourage the leaders around you, develop your own leadership gifts, and cling to the one who will guide us through every valley and mountain pass,

BENEDICTION

Go out into the world remembering the Good Shepherd who cares for your every need, often through the love of this community. Amen.



General Giving

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Shepherding God, teach us your voice. Speak to us, so we will know you. Let us hear your wisdom. Let us receive your care.

Shepherding God, speak to us.

Shepherding God, be near us. Tend to us, enfold us in care. Help us trust your guidance. Help us follow your call.

Shepherding God, tend to us.

Shepherding God, nurture all your beloved. Give us, and all the world, life abundant. May your nearness make us brave. May your faithfulness dispel our fears.

Shepherding God, give us life abundant. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER**HYMN "ON EAGLE'S WINGS"**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!" And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

SCRIPTURE JOHN 10:1-18

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God who breathes meaning and inspiration into our sacred

PRELUDE & ANNOUNCEMENTS**CHORAL INTROIT "THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS"**

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that our unity will one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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 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

Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

Come into God's embrace, you who seek a good shepherd, you who long to be known and protected, you who are far off and you who are near.

In Christ, we gather as one flock.

Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, you demonstrate your care for us by coming among us as Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Tend to us with mercy, gather us when we wander, protect us from the perils of this world, and bring all people together into one fold. Help us to recognize Christ's voice and Christ's calling. Remind us we are known. We are loved. We are invited to follow. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN #252 "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD"**CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows how we struggle to discern good leadership, sometimes choosing to follow people because of their charisma or power, rather than their integrity and wisdom. God, our Good Shepherd, we confess we often look to unwise leaders to guide us, whether in work, play, government, faith, or daily living. We overlook poor choices and bad boundaries, and we find ourselves enamored by personalities and power.

Forgive us for pursuing folly over wisdom. Forgive us for choosing flashy leaders over leaders you have gifted with experience and discernment. Forgive us for not holding our leaders accountable. Help us keep firm boundaries with leaders, encouraging them to make hard choices.

And when you call us into leadership roles, help us rise to the occasion with integrity and faithfulness. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved in Christ, God knows how leaders sometimes fail us, and how we fail our leaders. And in spite of our sins and errors in judgment, the Good Shepherd continues to guide us into depths of care. Receive the grace and pardon of our Good Shepherd and be at peace.

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME**CHOOSING ROLE MODELS****SERVICE OF BAPTISMEVE & JONAH STUCKY****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

We believe the mantle of leadership is serious, requiring wisdom, integrity, and humility. We believe Jesus showed us how to lead with love, justice, and advocacy for those who are weak or cast aside. We believe God calls leaders to accountability. We believe leaders must be removed when necessary for the safety and protection of the flock. We believe leaders must seek to learn and grow; they must acknowledge that they, too, are pilgrims of faith. We believe good leaders are not defined by their ability to speak eloquently or attract followers, but by their wisdom and compassion. We believe leaders must maintain healthy boundaries, respectful communication, and excellent listening skills. We believe we are all called to lead at times, but we choose some leaders for more responsibility because they have proven themselves wise and ready. We believe it is essential to encourage and support our leaders, so they do not exhaust themselves. We believe that our one great leader is Christ, and he guides us through the power of the Holy Spirit, who speaks to all of our hearts.