

WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY!

We are **delighted** that you are here in celebration and worship at St. John UCC. The members and friends of our faith community hope that you will encounter God in a meaningful and profound way, and that God's Spirit will inspire you today to live your faith out loud.

We hope that you want to discover more about the congregation and its ministry in the community of Freeport, across our state and nation, and around the world. Please ask one of our ushers or visit us:

on the Web: www.stjohnuccfreeport.org

on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport

For our younger guests, Worship Enrichment "*Busy Bags*" are available in the Narthex. These are located at the counter outside of the Chapel Hearth Room. Check in with an usher to organize a bag!

Parents and guardians are also welcome to use Room S3, the Infant Room, to care for their families as needed. There is a television in the room to view the worship service in real time.

Assisted Listening Devices are located at the Sound Board in the back of the Sanctuary. Earpiece and "Induction Loops" for hearing aids are both available. Please ask an usher for assistance in their use.

Please remember to return your name tag on your way home. We will have them waiting for your return next week!

If you cannot join us in person, you will always have a front row seat on our live stream at facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live.

Scan this code to access our Online Giving Portal:



We thank you for your continued
generous support of St. John UCC.

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Faith Formation for All Ages

Our regular faith formation classes for youth take place during the worship hour at 10:00, following the *For the Child in All of Us*.

The Infant and Toddler Room is provided for ages birth to 3 years with age-appropriate activities and equipment in **Room S3**.

Godly Play welcomes youth Preschool to 3rd Grade for a play-based faith formation in **Room S4**.

Whirl welcomes youth 4th Grade to 8th Grade to learn Bible stories, ask questions, and explore their faith together in **Room S8**.

Adult Faith Formation welcomes high school youth and adults of all ages to gather in the Chapel Hearth Room from 9:00-9:45, exploring different topics and formats weekly.

This month we will take time to reflect on the *Seasons of Creation*. Each Sunday will focus on one aspect how our UCC's ministry reaches out to the community of God's people we care for and the life-sustaining world we tend.

9/14 *Fauna and Flora Sunday*

9/21 *Storm Sunday*

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman

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Creative & Administrative Assistant:

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Digital Media Assistants: Max Gibson

Bell and Choir Director: Britney Kieselhorst

Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

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815.235.2824 • www.stjohnuccfreeport.org



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on TERRA BEATA

Neil Harmon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Anita Bicksler

One: God is the maker of all that thrives in our world:
plants and animals and all things.
God's life-giving Spirit invites us to this place to praise.

All: We are God's creatures. We are glad to be here!

One: God created all things for our goodness,
and invites us to this place.

**All: We are here to share God's goodness.
We are glad to be here!**

One: God who calls us to care for the Earth and all its
inhabitants, invites us to this place.

**All: We tend the fields, look after the animals,
and rejoice! We are glad to be here!**

One: With joy, let us come! Let us worship God!

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

(WAR #30)

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

** An asterisk is an invitation to rise as one is able (in body or spirit).
Please silence your mobile devices before the beginning of worship.*

GATHERING PRAYER

Silent Centering

Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

Creating God,
we are awed by the creation you have made –
the plants and animals (even us humans!).
You have placed us within this world
as part of an incredible bio-diversity.

We are always grateful.
We celebrate this gift with joy,
as we remember that you also called us
to be caretakers and peace-bringers.

You have challenged us to be joined with creation,
with the flowers of the field, the birds of the air,
and the animals of the land and sea.

You have called on us to be joined as one people,
united in purpose, even in our unique faiths and beliefs.

Help us to accept your challenge,
to be one in care for the fullness of creation,
to love each part as you love us.

In this time of worship, may we be aware
of the gifts of flora and fauna to Creation,
and to all created things. Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Psalm 104:14-23 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Tim Ebbers

The Prayer of our Savior

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

ANTHEM

Through the Darkness of the Ages
The Chancel Choir Hilary Jolly

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:22-31 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

MESSAGE

Deeply Woven Roots Rev. Hank Fairman
(with thanks to Gary Gunderson)

*HYMN

God Reigns o’er All the Earth TERRA BEATA
(NCH #21, on screen)

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Moment for Mission CWS Crop Hunger Walk

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song *Hymn of Promise* Natalie Sleeth
Doxology (CH #48 lyrics, on screen) OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ, all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

SHARING CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

We Plow the Fields WIR PFLUGEN
(VU #520, on screen)

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace TALLIS’ CANON
(WAR #717, v. 1)

*POSTLUDE

All Things Bright and Beautiful arr. Thomas H. Jones

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

an Open and Affirming, Racial Justice Congregation,
where God is Still Speaking,

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A CUP OF FELLOWSHIP

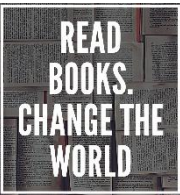
Thank you to those who have volunteered to bring weekly treats and host our Sunday Coffee Hour after worship. We appreciate you sharing in our extravagant welcome each week!

We are looking for help in hosting our weekly Coffee Hour treats. If you’ve thought about volunteering or have done so in the past, please consider signing up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We provide the coffee, and you would provide four-dozen or so cookies, servings of fresh fruit, muffins, bars, etc. Host by yourself, or sign up with a friend!



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING
Today after Worship, 11:30-2:30 pm

Church members who work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults and church leadership should attend a Safe Church Training every three years to review our policies for protecting people in our care. Please see Christina for more information.



SUBVERSIVE BOOK GROUP
9/16, 6:30 pm

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 9/16 beginning at 6:30 pm. Information about the chosen book can be found in the Book Group mail slot outside the church office or by contacting sbgfpt@gmail.com. Happy reading!



Oktoberfest

SAVE THE DATE: OKTOBERFEST
10/18, 4-7 PM

Join with the community at St. John UCC in our first-ever Oktoberfest festival on 10/18 from 4-7 pm. Dress in your finest German attire (lederhosen and dirndls welcomed!) and celebrate our community's German roots with great music, food, activities, and silent auction! There will be brats, pork chops, German potato salad, apple kuchen, a German folk music band, stein-holding, costume, and yodeling contests, and so much more!

Stay tuned for more information in the bulletins, online, and in your emails. If you'd like to participate in the planning, or want to volunteer to help, please let us know by contacting Lisa Ebbers or the office. We hope this event will be a fun-filled time for St. John UCC and the whole Freeport community.

Come early and stay until the root beer ends!

Prost!

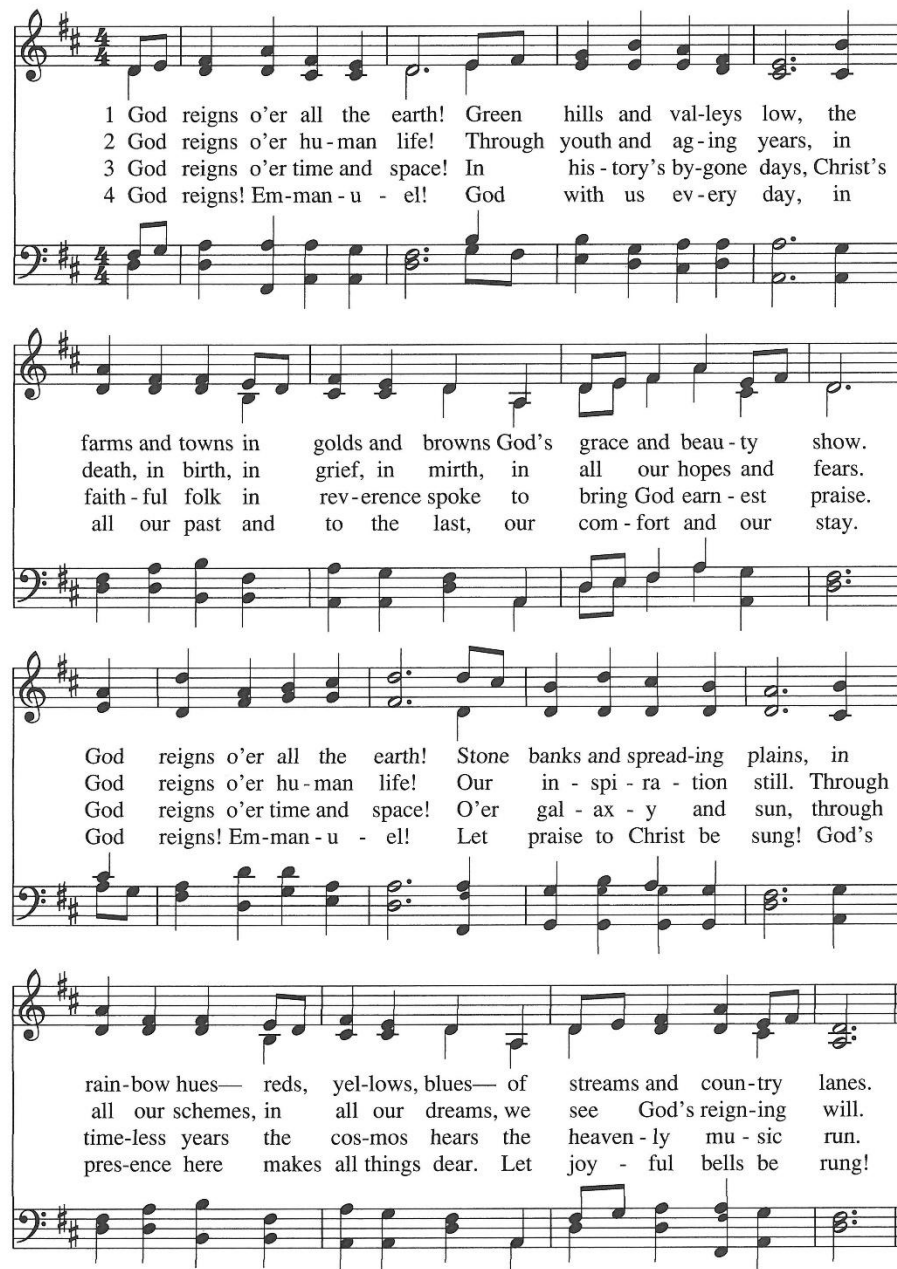
God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

GOD

21

Isa. 52:7-10



The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
Traditional English melody
Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

We Plough the Fields

1 We plough the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land,
 2 You on-ly are the mak-er of all things near and far,
 3 We thank you then, O Mak-er, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa-tered by your al-migh-ty hand,
 you paint the way-side flow-er, you light the even-ing star,
 the seed-time and the har-vest, our life, our health, our food;

you send the snow in win-ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 the winds and waves o-bey you, by you the birds are fed,
 ac-cept the gifts we of-fer for all your love im-parts,

the breez-es and the sun-shine, and soft re-fresh-ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil-dren, you give us dai-ly bread.
 and, what from us you long for, our hum-ble, thank-ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a-round us are sent from heaven a-bove;
 we thank you, God, O ho-ly God, for all your love.



OKTOBERFEST SILENT AUCTION

We are planning a great FUNraising event — our first Oktoberfest! Along with delicious food, we will have some fun activities, including a silent auction. It's not too early to start thinking about items you might want to donate for the auction. Possible ideas are gift baskets with various themes, artwork, baked goods, jewelry, gift cards for restaurants or stores, books - the possibilities are endless!

*If you have questions, please see or call:
 Jan Kunkle (815-908-9125).*



EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT

Wednesday, 9/17, 6 pm

This Wednesday is your last chance to paint a bowl in support of FACC's mission at the Kreeger Food Pantry. Come and share your passion and creative talents to end hunger and homelessness in Freeport and Stephenson County by painting a bowl with the Empty Bowls Project!

Each bowl costs \$25, supporting FACC's mission at the Kreeger Food Pantry. Make a bowl for yourself, or add to those being made for the Hunger Luncheon fundraiser!

Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and crafts people in cities and towns around the world to raise money for food related charities to care for and feed the hungry in their communities.