

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 meetings will resume on 9/14, from 9:00-9:45. High school youth and adults of all ages are welcome to gather in the Chapel Hearth Room, 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

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

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- Bell and Choir Director: Britney Kieselhorst
- Church Musician: Randy Cook
- Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
RALLY DAY CELEBRATION
September 7, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Ocean Is a Call to Worship Daniel C. Damon

*CALL TO WORSHIP Diane Jochum

One: Come one, come all--
God’s radical hospitality reaches out to us
like ever-flowing waters on the shore, bringing us home.

All: God’s extravagant welcome is all around us.

One: Like a vast ocean, God’s love is all around us.
It roils with our anxiousness,
and brings us peace with its waves.

All: God’s hope buoys us up and keeps us afloat.

One: When we are awash in life’s journey,
God’s grace overwhelms us and calms the storm.

All: God’s guiding star makes the journey navigable.

One: The ocean lessons preach good news of God’s presence.
As we come together, let us be as one body in Christ.

All: We rejoice as God’s beloved people always.

One: Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN I Sing the Almighty Power of God ELLACOMBE
(WAR #31)

*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)

Creator God, we come to see your face today
in the faces that surround us.
We meet in your creation and are astounded by the magnificent
waters that nourish and feed the whole of the Earth.
We find your smile reflected on the mysterious depths of the
ocean and in the enigmatic beauty in each person we encounter.
Today, we come with questions,
and ask you to open us to receive your answers.
Sometimes, we think the world is out to get us.
Sometimes, we don’t understand which way the tide is flowing.
We want – we demand – answers.
Yet you, gracious One, are eager to show us another way,
and invite us to see the grander picture of the world
of which we are a part.
Open us to your presence in our world and in our lives.
Teach us to sense your love in the currents in which we live.
They move like the surging seas –
and often we need a guiding, helping hand.
We come today to praise. Meet us here as we celebrate together.
Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Psalm 104:24-26 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Jan Kunkle

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

He Is Able
The Bell Choir
Noland/Ferguson
arr. Bettcher

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:1-11 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

MESSAGE

Where the Waters Meet the Shore Red. Hank Fairman

*HYMN

(WAR #350)

The Summons KELVINGROVE

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song *Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air*
arr. Albert Mendoza

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.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

One: Born of the waters of our Earth,
our spirits rise like the tides.

All: **Blessed in a love that loves diversity,
we flow together as one body in Christ.**

One: Swimming in the seas of life’s many places,
our purpose in this place becomes clear:

All: **We are here to welcome one another,
celebrating their place on life’s journey,
in the unity of God’s extravagant welcome.**

Communion Prayer

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

Sharing the Elements

Christ’s table is open to all who wish to participate.
*Red Wine and White Grape juice and **all bread is gluten free***
meeting the personal and dietary needs of every person.
Please take a serving cup and wait to join everyone gathered in the Sanctuary
and at home in communion as one body in Christ’s extravagant welcome and love.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (speaking together)

We are grateful, O God,
for the promise in Christ of a renewed creation.

Where there is futility, let there be hope.
Where there is brokenness or decay, renewal.

Even as we join with your Spirit in recreating our lives,
help us to be agents in recreating the world we share. Amen.

*HYMN

You Walk along Our Shoreline SALLEY GARDENS
(NCH #504, on screen)

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

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

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on ELLACOMBE Albert L. Travis

ANNOUNCEMENTS



RALLY DAY AND EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT
Today after Worship!

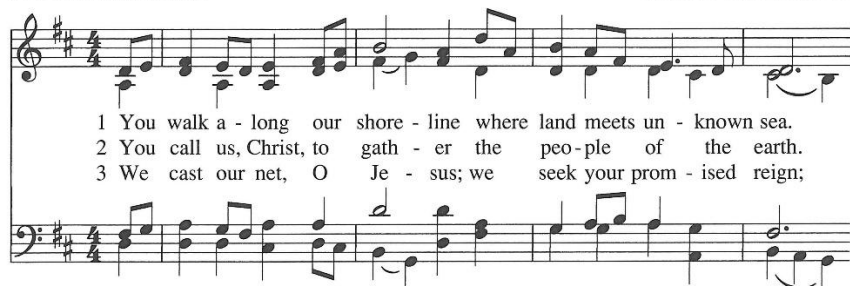
Come today to Fellowship Hall to celebrate Rally Day with our annual
Potluck Lunch. Afterwards, stay for our *Empty Bowls* Hunger Relief
Mission Support Project supporting FACC’s Kreeger Memorial Food
Pantry. Celebrate as the community in Christ at St. John UCC, sharing
the radical hospitality of God’s all-embracing love!

You Walk along Our Shoreline

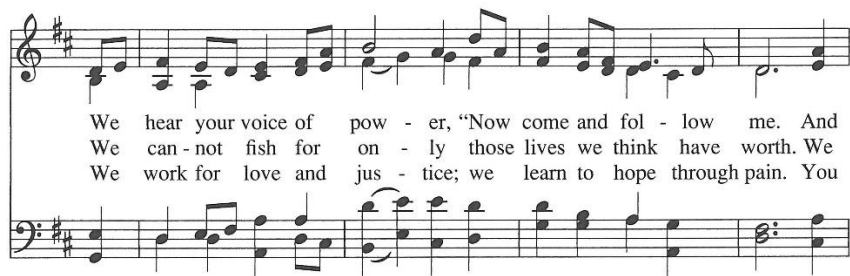
504

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984; alt.

Mark 1:16–20; John 17:20–26



1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.
 2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
 3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we seek your prom - ised reign;



We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me. And
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth. We
 We work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain. You



if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,
 spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
 call on us to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,



Then I will make you fish - ers, but of the hu - man soul."
 Our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
 To let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan credited an article by Michael Steinhauser in the March 1984 issue of Practice of Ministry in Canada entitled "Fishing: A Metaphor for Ministry" as the inspiration for her text. Dunstan was an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada.

Tune: SALLEY GARDENS 7.6.7.6.D.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELLNESS MINISTRY

9/10, 10:00 am

Our renewed Wellness Ministry will gather for a conversation on Wednesday, 9/10, at 10:00 am. You are welcome (AND ENCOURAGED!) to come and learn more. You may find just the place to share yourself and your gifts. We will discern our best way to be the church our congregation needs us to be in caring for our community.

Please contact Rev. Ted or Pam Wessel to answer any questions.



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

9/14, 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. Lunch is provided.

Please RSVP for the training to safechurch@stjohnnucfreeport.org by Sunday 9/7, and include special dietary restrictions or food allergies, and accessibility needs.