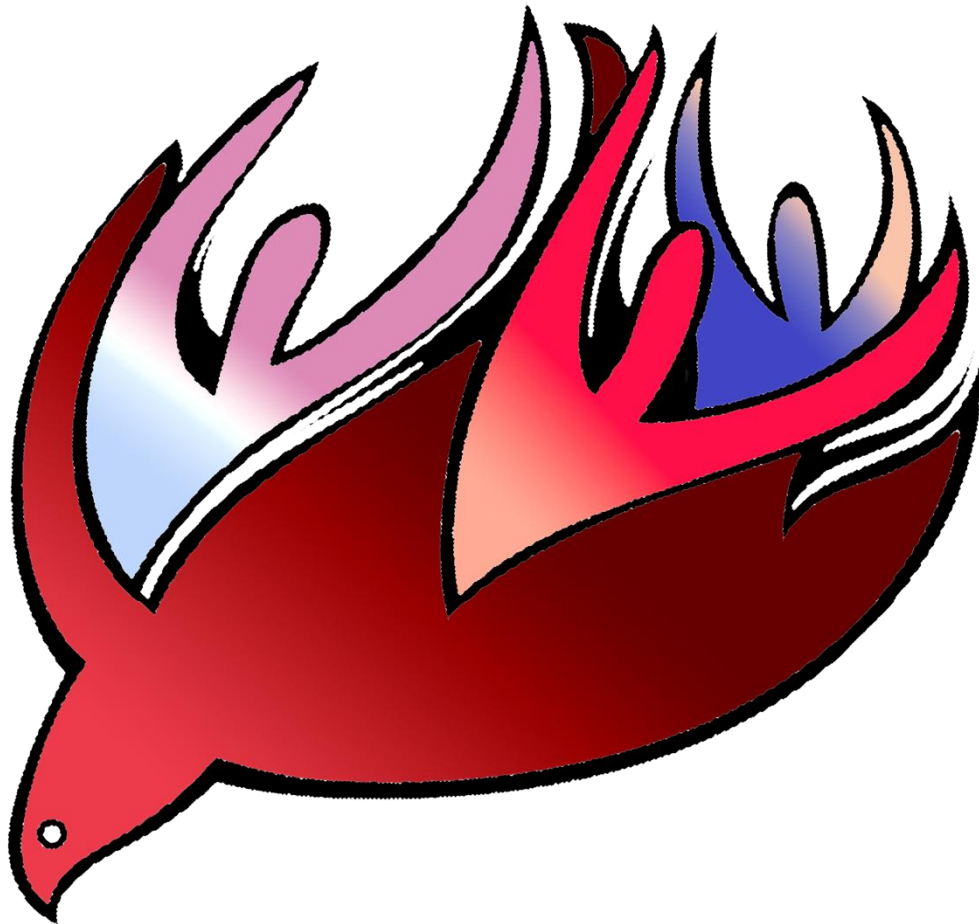




Bethany

United Church of Christ
Freeport, IL



CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY!

We are delighted that you are here in celebration and worship today with St. John UCC and Bethany UCC. The members and friends of our combined faith communities 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

www.bethanyuccfp.org

Today's service will be broadcast live 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!

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CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION SUNDAY

October 18, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Give Thanks
The Bell Choir

arr. Peggy Bettcher

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Schubert

One: Come, friends. Come and experience
God's goodness with all your being.

**All: Taste and touch, see and hear,
smell and wonder, know and believe.**

One: Know that in this place God will hear
the cries of every voice and every heart.

**All: Come, and let us proclaim together
the goodness of our God.**

One: When one stands firm and shares their faith,
God and the hosts of heaven sing in reply.

**All: We witness their truth, and know
that God is with us all the time.**

One: All the time, God is good!
Come and worship today!

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Worship & Rejoice #154

*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.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 154

Unison

Em Bm G Am G D G D Bm C G/B

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Am Em Bm Em Am Am Em B7 Em Bm C D Em

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

D Bm G G/B Am Am G/B D G D Em Bm G

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Am Am G/B D Em D/F# G G/B C G/B Am Em D/F# Em

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vss. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954)
 MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

VENI EMMANUEL
 L.M.Ref.

GATHERING PRAYER

Silent Centering

Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

Loving God,
we come to this place seeking healing
seeking new life,
and seeking wholeness.

Help us to throw off the cloaks of our limited imaginations,
that we might find ourselves forever in your presence.

May we come before you,
without flattery, seeking neither praise nor prestige,
but with hearts filled with the love of Christ,
ready to do the work of the Gospel.

May we live the promises that we remember today.
May we affirm your hopes for us, and for the world.

May the words of our mouths,
and the meditations of our hearts,
be acceptable in your sight,
our rock and redeemer. Amen.

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Exodus 33:12-23

NRSV, Updated Edition

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

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

The Impossible Dream (The Quest) from Man of La Mancha
The Bell Choir

Leigh & Darion
arr. Arnold B. Sherman

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:33-46

NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

Affirming Faith

The Confirmation Class of 2026

Vals Español

José Ferrer

Lizzy Lamm, Guitar

Head Above Water

Lavigne, Moccio and Clark

Elliot Fairman, Piano

*HYMN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

Chalice Hymnal #16

with Elowen Lamm, Cello

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

One: Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you gave me food.

All: "I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink.

One: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

All: "I was naked and you gave me clothing,

One: "I was sick and you took care of me,

All: "I was in prison and you visited me."

One: When did I do this?

**All: "Inasmuch as you did to the least of these,
my family and neighbors, you did it to me."**

One: Let all you do be done in love.

Offering Song

I Need Thee Every Hour

arr. Jeff Bennett

Allie Daggert, viola, Judi Buus, piano

Doxology (CH #48)

OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise Christ, all creatures here below!

Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!

One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

SHARING CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise to thee an al-tar; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.
 Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
 Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan-der, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of thy re-deem-ing love.
 he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON
 87.87D

ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION: the affirmation of Baptism

Invitation & Sentences

Questions of the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (as a doxology)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



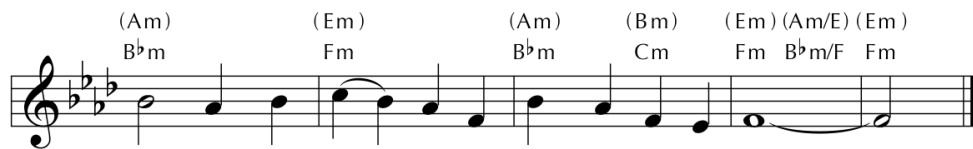
we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Confirmation

Address & Question about Participation

Welcome and Greeting of Christian Love

*HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

ST. BRENDAN'S

Glory to God #300

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

I Come With Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

Worship & Rejoice #706, v. 5

*POSTLUDE

Take My Life and Let It Be
Judi Buus, piano

Mozart / Malan

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026

Bethany UCC – Freeport:

Lizzie Lamm, Carolyn Johnson, Mentor

Elowen Lamm, Jeff Jones, Mentor

St. John's UCC – Belvedere:

Tristan Burke, Jeanne Anderson, Mentor

Gwen (August) Brooks, Jeanne Anderson, Mentor

St. John UCC – Freeport:

Elliot Fairman, Shawn Killingbeck, Mentor

Warren United Methodist Church:

Lily Smith, Heather Redmore, Mentor

Congratulations to the students on completing this leg of their spiritual journey!

May God's blessings follow you, wherever you go from here.

CELEBRATING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lisa Schubert
Worship Leader, St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

Lily smith,
Worship Leader, Warren United Methodist Church – Warren, IL

The St. John UCC Bell Choir
Britney Kieselhorst, director

Rev. Muriel Jahn,
St. John's United Church of Christ – Belvedere, IL

Min. Leon Ishmon,
Pastor, Bethany United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

Rev. Hank Fairman,
St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org
mobile: 703-473-3534

Visitation Pastor:
Rev. Ted Michalsen ted@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Director of Congregational Life:
Pam Wessel pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Creative & Administrative Assistant:
Myles Halberstadt myles@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Digital Media Assistants: Max Gibson, Elliot Fairman

Music Director: Britney Kieselhorst britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

1010 South Park Boulevard Freeport, IL 61032
815.235.2824 • www.stjohnuccfreeport.org



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world
for all
ucc.org



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Freeport, IL 61032
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United Church of Christ
Freeport, IL

2341 W Stephenson St
Freeport, IL 61032
815.232.5722 • www.bethanyuccfp.org