

## 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](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)

on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport](http://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](https://www.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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade for a play-based faith formation in **Room S4**.

**Whirl** welcomes youth 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

In May we will learn how to be welcoming, supportive, inclusive, and engaged in the work of mental health care and be present in the lives of those who are seeking treatment.

5/10 Why go WISE?

*What would becoming a WISE congregation mean?*

5/17 Starting the WISE process

*Hear from First Congregational in Downers Grove about their WISE journey*

## ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME / MOTHER'S DAY

May 10, 2026 • 10:00 am

## WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Come Down, O Love Divine* arr. Kristina Langlois

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Christina Fairman

One: And Jesus said, "Come!"

**All: To all mothers and all children:  
he said, "Come!"**

One: To the motherless and the childless:  
he said, "Come!"

**All: To all who long to be mothered:  
he said, "Come!"**

One: So come, lift your voices in praise.

**All: We come, and we celebrate God's mothering care,  
who loved us before we were yet born,  
who knows us even better than we know ourselves,  
whose presence never leaves us,  
and whose love for us never ceases.**

One: This is the God who mothers us.  
Let's worship together!

\*HYMN *God Made from One Blood* ST. DENIO

NCH #427

\*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)

God with a mother's heart,  
You gather us as your children.

You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace.  
When we hurt, your arms enfold us.  
When we are afraid, your wings protect us.  
When we are hungry, you feed us with the bread of life.

God with a mother's heart,  
your love surrounds and supports us,  
In good times and in tough,  
in the midst of joy and pain,  
you are always and everywhere.

God with a mother's heart,  
we thank you this day  
for all who mother us in your image.  
Strengthen them in their moments of need,  
celebrate with them in their successes,  
love with them in their caregiving and encouragement.

God, eternal and loving one,  
we thank you this day,  
for being part of your family. Amen

## GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

John 14:15-21

*The Inclusive Bible*

## FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Anita Bicksler

### 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

*Secret for the Mad*

Dodie M. Clark

Britney Kieselhorst & Randy Cook

arr. G. Chung

## GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:22-31

*The Inclusive Bible*

## MESSAGE

*Into the Unknown*

Rev. Hank Fairman

## \*HYMN

*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

SUO GAN

GTG #231

## 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

*Christ, Be Our Light*

Bernadette Farrell

arr. Mark Hayes

### Doxology (CH #48)

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

*God our Author and Creator*

BRADBURY

NCH #530

## \*BENEDICTION

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**St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL**

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

## \*RESPONSE

*That Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

PUER NOBIS

WAR #299, v. 4

## \*POSTLUDE

*Immortal, Invisible*

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### 2026 FREEPORT PRIDE PLANNING MEETING

#### Today, Following Worship

There will be a planning meeting today for the 2026 Freeport Pride Picnic on 6/13. Anyone who would like to join the planning team is welcome to attend. If you're interested in getting involved but can't make it to the meeting, please email Liz at [lizzybeth123@gmail.com](mailto:lizzybeth123@gmail.com).



### HONORING THE 2026 GRADUATES

#### 5/31, During Worship

St. John UCC celebrates with our members and friends who graduate high school, college, or graduate school this spring.

*Please submit names, honors, and information  
to the church office by 5/17.*



### PENTECOST POTLUCK PICNIC

#### 5/31, Following Worship

Start the summer off with a gathering of friends! Add your names to the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board or call the church office.

*Save the date, and plan your  
favorite summer dish to pass!*



**PEACE POLE PROJECT INSTALLATION DAY**  
**SATURDAY, 5/30, 8:30 AM**

Join the Mission & Outreach Team with the Peace Pole Project on Saturday, 5/30, at 8:30 am. The Peace Pole will be installed on the Park Boulevard front lawn of the church near the flagpole. Its location will be registered with The Peace Pole Project, sharing our commitment to building a more just and peaceful world in our time.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared to get a little dirty.

*Please sign up in the Narthex if you are available to assist with the Peace Pole Installation so we can plan accordingly.*



**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Kampmeier Fund in the St. John Church Endowment was created to extend the generous spirit of our members and friends for educational scholarships. Members of our church community with acceptance to college are invited to apply.

While a specific amount of award cannot be determined until all applications are received, applicants should anticipate assistance with books and supplies.

Applications are available from the church office, or by emailing [pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org).

***Deadline for Applications is Sunday, 8/2***

**God Made from One Blood**

Thomas H. Troeger, 1988

1 God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,  
 2 We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears  
 3 Through fam - ilies we've tast - ed the val - ue of trust  
 4 Help fam - ilies in all of their var - i - ous forms

the cir - cles of nur - ture that raise us from birth,  
 for all of the fam - ilies we've known through the years,  
 and felt what it means to be lov - ing and just,  
 to face with in - teg - ri - ty strug - gles and storms;

Com - pan - ions who join us to work through each stage  
 The in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend  
 Yet fam - ilies have al - so be - trayed their best goals,  
 Grant peace to our homes that will nur - ture the bud

of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.  
 of par - ents and part - ners and chil - dren and friends.  
 mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bruising their souls.  
 of peace for the fam - ilies you made from one blood.

*This text was commissioned by Yale University Press for A New Hymnal for Colleges and Schools (1992) to provide a hymn that recognizes the many different kinds of families that are represented when a campus congregation gathers to worship.*

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

# Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231

1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,  
 2 Christ has ris-en for the peo-ple whom he died to love and save;  
 3 Christ has ris-en and for ev-er lives to chal-lenge and to change

as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de-nied.  
 Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.  
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re-li-gion strange.

Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;  
 Christ has ris-en for dis-ci-ples hud-dled in an up-stairs room.  
 Christ is ris-en, Christ is pres-ent mak-ing us what he has been:

let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en, God is here!  
 He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.  
 ev-i-dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.

Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1988  
 MUSIC: Welsh melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011  
 Text © 1988 WGRC, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)  
 Music Arr. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

SUO GAN  
 8.7.8.7.D

# God Our Author and Creator

BRADBURY (8.7.8.7 D)

1. God our Au-thor and Cre-a - tor, in whose life we find our own,  
 2. Like those first a - pos-tles, Sa - vior, give us strength to love and serve:  
 3. Keep us faith-ful Ho - ly Spi - rit, help us bear the mess-age true,

make our dai-ly wit-ness great - er, by our lives make your love known.  
 when our faint-ing spi - rits wa - ver, fire our heart and steel our nerve.  
 that at last all lands may hear it, God is love, and Christ's in you.

Help us show how love em-bra-ces those whom fear and greed down-trod;  
 Teach us wis-dom, and com-pas-sion, bid our rest - less thoughts be still;  
 Join our lives in might-y cho-rus, til it sounds from ev - ery place,

in all yearn-ings hearts and fac - es, let us see a child of God.  
 by your guid-ance help us fa-shion lives con-formed un - to your will.  
 with all those who went be-fore us, let us sing of God's good grace.

Words by Carl P. Daw, Jr., Music by William B. Bradbury  
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