

St. John United Church Of Christ  
Freeport, Illinois



**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 5, 2026 • 10:00 am

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## **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).



## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5, 2026 • 10:00 am

### WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*This Land is Your Land*

Woody Guthrie  
arr. Gary Prim

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Shawn Killingbeck

One: Step up to the plate, everyone!  
Take up your position in God's sanctuary.  
Leave behind the errors and strikeouts of yesterday!

**All: Because today is Opening Day in God's grace.  
God's mercies are new every morning!**

One: We are in the lineup, members of Christ's team,  
called out of the dugout to gather for a greater purpose.

**All: We gather to worship the Creator of the game!  
Let us run the bases with joy, respect, and kindness.**

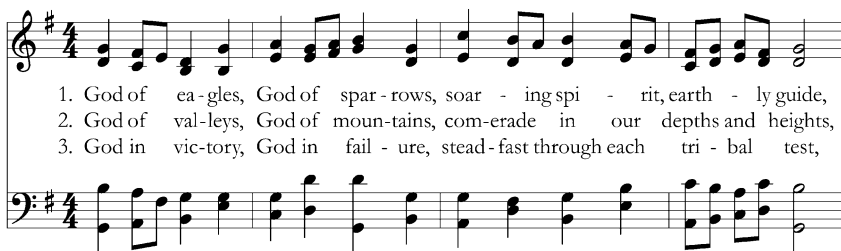
One: For with God, no one strikes out  
Let us set our feet on that baseline of hope!

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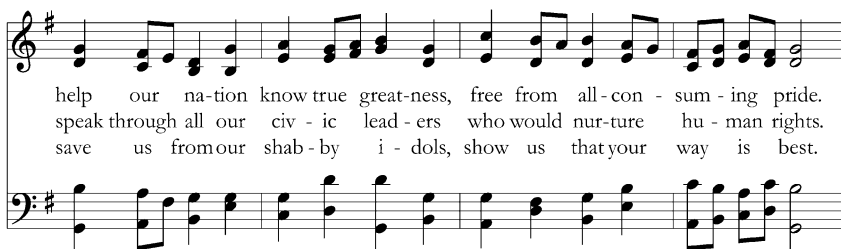
*\* An asterisk is an invitation to rise as one is able (in body or spirit).  
Please silence your mobile devices before the beginning of worship.*

# God of Eagles, God of Sparrows

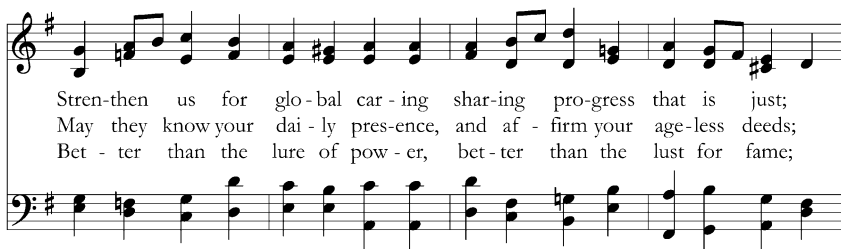
IN BABILONE (8.7.8.7 D)



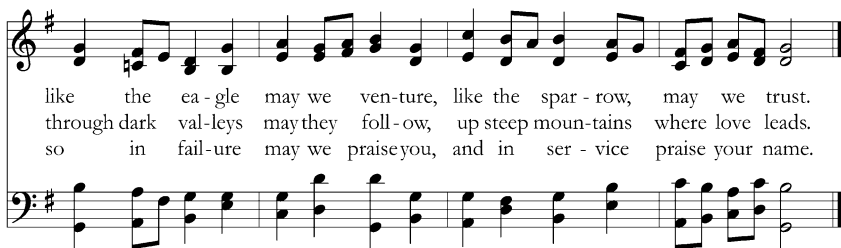
1. God of ea-gles, God of spar-rows, soar - ing spi - rit, earth - ly guide,  
2. God of val-leys, God of moun-tains, com-erade in our depths and heights,  
3. God in vic-tory, God in fail - ure, stead - fast through each tri - bal test,



help our na-tion know true great-ness, free from all-con - sum - ing pride.  
speak through all our civ - ic lead - ers who would nur-ture hu - man rights.  
save us from our shab-by i - dols, show us that your way is best.



Stren-then us for glo-bal car - ing shar-ing pro-gress that is just;  
May they know your dai - ly pres-ence, and af - firm your age-less deeds;  
Bet - ter than the lure of pow - er, bet - ter than the lust for fame;



like the ea-gle may we ven-ture, like the spar-row, may we trust.  
through dark val-leys may they foll-ow, up steep moun-tains where love leads.  
so in fail-ure may we praise you, and in ser - vice praise your name.

**\*HYMN**

*God of Eagles, God of Sparrows*

IN BABILONE

Words: Dosisa Carlson © 1975, The Hymn Society

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**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**Silent Centering**

**Congregational Prayer (speaking together)**

Still-speaking God, you bring us together in unity and purpose. We come together as a team, centered on your vision for the healing of our world.

We ask that you coach us with cooperation and understanding. Fill our hearts with patience and our words with kindness. When opinions differ, play-by-play, help us find harmony in our diversity and strength in community.

Bless us each with the humility to listen and the courage to speak truthfully in love. May our living be examples of Christ's way, one of unity, respect, collaboration, and compassion can shine through.

Together, we pray that our efforts will not only strengthen our commitment to see your justice realized in our time, but also deepen our relationships with one another so we can play ball as one body, in Christ.

Through our unity and our diversity, we pray. Amen.

**GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 145:8-14

*NRSV, Updated Edition*

**ANTHEM**

*You'll Be Back*  
Elliot Fairman, piano

Lin Manuel Miranda,  
*from the musical Hamilton*

# GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*NRSV, Updated Edition*

## A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Hank Fairman

\*HYMN

*Come to the Table of Grace*

TABLE OF GRACE

### GTG #507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)  
F C Dm F7/C B<sup>b</sup>

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)  
C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
F/A B<sup>b</sup> F/C C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

## PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Moment for Mission

Summer Giving Campaign

### 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

*This is My Song*

arr. Lloyd Larson

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.

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## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

### Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

#### Invitation to the Table

One: Ordinary bread made by ordinary people  
is holy when we take and eat and remember.

**All: Ordinary grapes harvested by ordinary people,  
made into ordinary juice and wine  
is holy when we take and drink and remember**

One: This bread: Remember. It is the bread that gives eternal life  
This cup: Remember. It is the cup that shares everlasting love.

**All: Bread and wine, from ordinary to holy.  
We remember, and know that God is good.**

#### Communion Prayer and 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.

### Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

#### 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 celebrate with you, Ever-creating God,  
being nourished and refreshed at this table of grace and love.

Take hold of our lives:  
inspire us to live boldly,  
strengthen us to love fully; and  
empower us to speak justly.

Send us out renewed for life's extra innings,  
and so far as it depends upon us,  
help is to be peacemakers on every field walk upon.

Filled with your Spirit, send us out today! Amen

### \*HYMN

*In This Time of Great Reflection*

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2026

PROMISE

*Next Page*

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*RESPONSE

*Fantasy on 'Emmenez-moi au match de balle'* Norworth/Von Tilzer  
Elliot Fairman, violin with Randy Cook, piano

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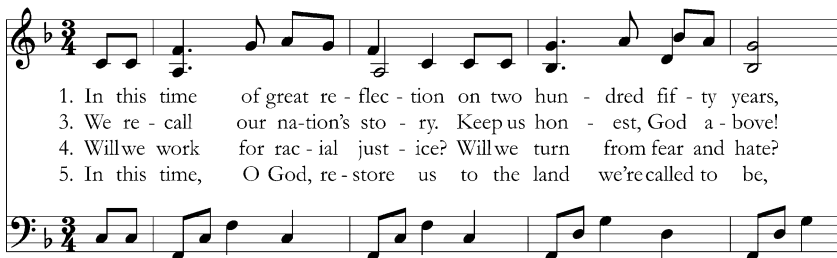
**Scan this code to access our Online Giving Portal:**



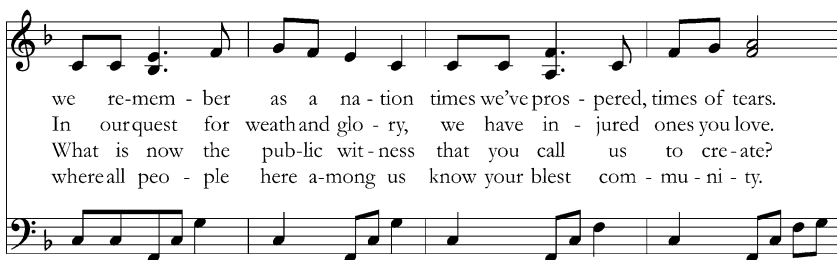
**We thank you for your continued  
generous support of St. John UCC.**

# In This Time of Great Reflection

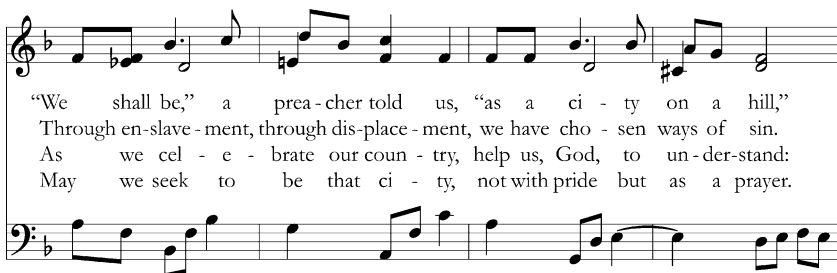
PROMISE (8.7.8.7 D)



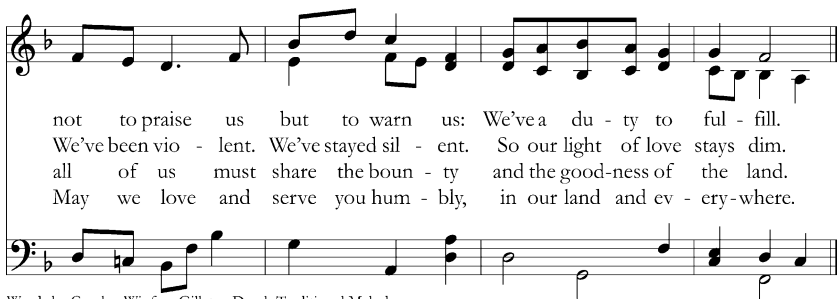
1. In this time of great re - flec - tion on two hun - dred fif - ty years,  
3. We re - call our na - tion's sto - ry. Keep us hon - est, God a - bove!  
4. Will we work for rac - ial just - ice? Will we turn from fear and hate?  
5. In this time, O God, re - store us to the land we're called to be,



we re - mem - ber as a na - tion times we've pros - pered, times of tears.  
In our quest for weath and glo - ry, we have in - jured ones you love.  
What is now the pub - lic wit - ness that you call us to cre - ate?  
where all peo - ple here a - mong us know your blest com - mu - ni - ty.



“We shall be,” a prea - cher told us, “as a ci - ty on a hill.”  
Through en - slave - ment, through dis - place - ment, we have cho - sen ways of sin.  
As we cel - e - brate our coun - try, help us, God, to un - der - stand:  
May we seek to be that ci - ty, not with pride but as a prayer.



not to praise us but to warn us: We've a du - ty to ful - fill.  
We've been vio - lent. We've stayed sil - ent. So our light of love stays dim.  
all of us must share the boun - ty and the good - ness of the land.  
May we love and serve you hum - bly, in our land and ev - ery - where.

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Dutch Traditional Melody

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## A Note About This Week's Hymns

*The hymns we celebrate today in worship are written by three poet musicians with significant impact on modern worship music. Dosa Carlson was a UCC minister, and Antoinette Brown Award recipient for her ministry among senior citizens and people with disabilities. Her many hymns spoke prophetically to the time she ministered, including the American Bicentennial. Barbara Hamm is the Minister of Music ad Community Congregational Church UCC – Benicia, CA, bringing significant Progressive Christian music into being. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is a Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor and a gifted hymn writer who has written over 550 hymns. Many of her hymns bring to voice the prophetic present for the church, urging our ecumenical and interreligious dialogue to bring healing and hope to God's realm.*

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## ST. JOHN UCC LINEUP

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman

[hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org)  
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Visitation Pastor:

Rev. Ted Michalsen

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Creative & Administrative Assistant:

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[myles@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:myles@stjohnuccfreeport.org)

Digital Media Assistants: Max Gibson, Elliot Fairman

Music Director: Britney Kieselhorst

[britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org)

Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

## **If God Invented Baseball**

by E. Ethelbert Miller

If God invented baseball  
There would be no stealing  
no balks, no wild pitches or intentional  
walks. There would be no pitch-outs,  
foul balls or errors. There would be  
no one-hand catches or bean balls.  
There would be no curves or sliders,  
no rundowns, or warning tracks.

If God invented baseball there would  
be no night games, no balls getting lost  
in the sun. There would be no bunting  
or swinging for the fences. There would  
be no double plays or triple plays.

If God invented baseball  
he would not rest on the seventh day.  
Instead he would turn to us and say  
"let's play two." God would let us bat  
first while his angels danced  
in the outfield.



1010 South Park Boulevard  
Freeport, IL 61032

815.235.2824 • [www.stjohnuccfreeport.org](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)



**Bring *Flat Jesus* with you wherever you go this summer!**

Be sure to take him along on all your adventures, snap some photos, and send the photos to: [flatjesus@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:flatjesus@stjohnuccfreeport.org)

*We'll post them in the Sunday School hallway  
so you can see what Flat Jesus has been up to!*

## **AMITY UNDERWEAR DRIVE**

There is a great need for new children's underwear for underprivileged households in our community. We are called to reach out and let them know that we care. Starting today, a laundry basket will be placed in the church Atrium for your donations of children's sizes 8-18, but especially women's M-L and men's M-2XL underwear of all types. Drop off your donations weekdays in July from 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

*For more information about Amity visit their website:*

<https://amitysocietyoffreeport.org/>

## **BECOMING WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Next Steps: The Wise Covenant Team**

St. John UCC is walking the path towards being recognized as a congregation that is WISE for mental health (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). Our next step is to form a WISE Covenant writing team. The Wellness Ministry team is inviting people who have a passion for mental health to collaborate in this endeavor. This is a six-month commitment that will begin at the 7/19 meeting.

*To sign up or for more information reach out to Pastor Ted  
or a member of the Wellness Ministry*