

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.

Service Credits, Copyright, and Streaming Notice

All music and hymns in this service are reprinted, recorded/podcasted, and/or streamed with permission obtained from:

CCLI Copyright License # 2752305, Streaming License # 20105443,
CCS PERFORMmusic and WORSHIPcast License # 13435.
or OneLicense Copyright and Podcasting License # A-726513.

Original compositions and arrangements remain the property of the artist, and are used with their express permission for performing, reprinting, recording, and streaming.



Faith Formation for All Ages

Our regular faith formation classes for youth take place during the worship hour at 10:00, following the *Moment for All Ages*.

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 9/13, 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.

Our next Adult Faith Formation series will examine the ways in which language tunes our love. We'll learn how the words we use to talk (and sing) about faith have changed over time to become more inclusive, more expansive, and more welcoming of all God's people.

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



SEASON OF CREATION: FESTIVAL OF CREATION RALLY DAY

August 30th, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Can't Steal My Joy

J. Queen & B. Lake

Shawn Killingbeck and Robert Mayfield

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diane Jochum

One: In the beginning,
the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.
And God called them good.

All: Come Holy Spirit
and cleanse the waters.

One: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: Come Holy Spirit
and renew the face of the Earth.

One: Jesus cried out,
"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...
Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living
water."

All: Come, Holy Spirit
and heal your people.

One: Come, people of water, and of earth and of Spirit,
and let us praise our creator!

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

NCH #12

* 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.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS AND GIFTS

GATHERING PRAYER

Silent Centering

Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

Almighty and ever living God,
we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for
your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life.

We offer our thanks for the waters that call to us with a healing
song. They bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the
bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. They give health and to
the lands, they nourish the trees and pastures, the crops and the
forests. And the waters bring us life, too.

You have made a beautiful world, but we have not cared for it
as we should. We confess that we have not cared for your
creation as we should. We have polluted the air, the water, and
the land. We have consumed more than we need and ignored
the cries of the earth and the poor.

Forgive us, God. Renew in us a spirit of stewardship and love.
Help us to live in harmony with all you have made.

Bring us to new life; bring us to healing shores; bring us to
courage and compassion, we pray in the name of Jesus the
Christ, who walked on the waters in love. Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-25 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

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

I Sing Because I’m Happy arr. Dr. R. Dilworth
The Chancel Choir

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:9-21 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

MESSAGE

Getting Schooled Rev. Hank Fairman

*HYMN

I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath OLD 113TH
WAR #79

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 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*
S. Temple, arr. M. 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

Jesus Shall Reign DUKE STREET
NCH #300

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Touch the Earth Lightly TENDERNESS
WAR #38, v.I

*POSTLUDE

Canticle of the Sun Haugen, arr. Roberts

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TODAY, 8/30

Come join in morning worship, sharing the songs and stories of God’s
blessings for us all in community with each other and our Creator.
Stay for the annual Rally Day Potluck Lunch, fellowship, and games.
Celebrate as the community in Christ at St. John UCC, sharing the radical
hospitality of God’s all-embracing love!



SAVE THE DATE:
During Worship, Sunday, 9/6

Come join in our annual hymn sing on Labor Day weekend! Find your
favorite hymns, and mark down the numbers from our hymnal! This all-
ages worship celebration brings our old favorites and our new-to-me
hymns to voice.

Come ready to sing God our praises!

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL
an Open and Affirming, Racial Justice Congregation,
where God is Still Speaking

SAVE THE DATE:



SATURDAY, 10/3, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

Join with the community at St. John UCC in our second Oktoberfest festival! 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

If you'd like to participate or want to volunteer to help, please let us know by contacting Lisa Ebbers or the front office.!

Tickets will be available Sundays beginning on 9/13 and at the door

Adults \$15.00, Children 10 and under \$10.00.

We hope this event will be a fun-filled event for St. John UCC and the whole Freeport community!

Plan on arriving early and staying until the root beer ends!

Can't wait to see you there! Prost!

OKTOBERFEST SILENT AUCTION

We are planning a great FUNdraising event — our SECOND 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, new and gently used items, - the possibilities are endless!

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

GOD

12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Oh, how your won-ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Jesus Shall Reign

300

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 72; Rev. 1:4b-8

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
 2 Through Christ shall end - less prayer be made,
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
 4 Bless - ings a - bound where - e'er Christ reigns;
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring

does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
 borne by the Spir - it's cease - less aid;
 dwell on God's love with sweet - est song,
 the pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
 trib - utes of praise for all to sing;

God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
 Like sweet per - fume new hymns shall rise
 And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
 The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,
 An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,

till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 their ear - liest prayers in Je - sus' name.
 and all who suf - fer want are blessed,
 and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

The second half of a longer paraphrase of Psalm 72, this hymn was included in Isaac Watts' *Psalms of David*, a collection of psalm-based poems with New Testament orientation. John Hatton once lived on Duke Street in St. Helen's, Lancaster, England.

Tune: DUKE STREET L.M.
 Attrib. to John Hatton, c. 1793