

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

November 17, 2024

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Praise the Holy One

Are you weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care, precious Savior still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Joseph M. Scriven knew what it was like to be cumbered with a load of care. Early on, Scriven had to drop out of military school due to poor health. Then, in 1844, on the eve of this wedding his fiancé drowned. After moving to Canada, Scriven found — and lost — love again. His fiancé died this time after a short illness.

Yet through it all, Scriven kept believing that there was a Heavenly Ear listening to his cries. In 1855, he expressed that belief in the ever-popular hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

Scriven’s reminder to take our sorrow-riddled sighs and desperation-filled whys to God is one we need today. We live in a time where we no longer know how to wait for anything — let alone God’s answer to prayer. We live in an on-demand society expecting God to be an on-demand God.

God, though, never forgets us. It might seem like God keeps us waiting in our sorrow, questions and trials, but God’s timing is not like ours. In the waiting, we need to draw closely to God and remain persistent with our prayers.

Hannah is the poster child for being persistent. Although her load of care — her infertility — was breaking her heart, she kept asking God to “open her womb.” Hannah’s husband, Elkanah, was kind to her, but Peninnah, the other wife, loved to flaunt her fertility in front of Hannah.

Years of societal shame, marital failure and personal grief, would have taken its toll on any person of faith. Hannah, though, kept praying.

In the end, Hannah’s prayers were heard. She conceived a son and, as promised, to show her praise to the Lord, she gives the child to the service of the priest, Eli.

What are the unanswered prayers you are carrying this day? How long have you been lifting them to God? Whatever you do, don’t stop praying. For you just can’t see how close you really are to receiving God’s answer.

Dear God, grant us the persistence we need this day to keep on praying, knowing that You are not only listening but that You are working on the most beautiful answer to our deepest desires. Thank you for the answered prayers that we know will come — in your perfect timing. Amen.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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St. John's United Church of Christ
 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
 November 17, 2024



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold print** is everyone in unison

Stewardship Sunday

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship) **PRELUDE**

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

If we want to reap a lush green lawn, We must be generous with seeding.

If we sparingly sow the seed, The lawn will be thin, prone to weeds and disease.

We are lush lawn people, who understand that we reap what we sow.

We gather in church, to sow the spirit of God,

To reap the same we sow and more,

For God's spirit multiplies with the planting,

And grows more rich, and full, and beautiful,

When we open our hearts, letting the love seeds go.

* **OPENING HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (vs. 1-3) #25

* **WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

Dear God of soil, seed and harvest, We are your richly planted, ripening people in various stages of faith. We pray that in this hour you will water our souls, brighten our minds, lengthen our roots, stretch our stems, and touch our hearts, that we might be strengthened with a generosity to sow your seeds as needed. Amen.

* **RESPONSE** *O For a World* (v.1) #683

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please come forward) *Jesus Loves Me*

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT *Krisi Mattingly*

OFFERING INVITATION**

Let us give back to God with gratitude for all blessings received.

* **RESPONSE** *The Doxology* #46

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Bless the time we give, that it may be purposeful. Bless the talent we bring, that it may have meaning. Bless the gifts we bear so that they are given in pure love. Thanks be to you, our Creator. Amen.

ANTHEM *Purify Your Heart* Doerksen/Tierney

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Congregational Response: *O For a World* (v.2) #683

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: 1 Samuel 1:4-10

New Testament: Luke 12:32-34

L: The Word of God for the People of God **P: Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *Priceless Treasure*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* #382

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Let us go forth as workers together with God proclaiming the Good News, performing deeds of justice, mercy and kindness, giving evidence of Christ's love in all that we do.

And may the grace of God be with us all. Amen.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace* #445

* **POSTLUDE**

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	John Riggs
Head Usher	Hope Clausman
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Sandra Lange
Sound	Jonathan Lange
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Greeters	Ray Pieper / Evangelism & Membership

You are invited to attend our Stewardship meal following worship in Memorial Hall. Come vote for your favorite chili/soup as we dedicate our commitment cards.

**You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myucc.org and click on the contribute button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.

MESSY CHURCH will take place on Wednesday, December 4th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The theme is Advent-ure and will focus on Advent/Christmas activities with dinner and interactive worship. All families are welcome. A parent must accompany children. Invite your friends and family.

[Advent Festival!!!!](#)

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Dec. 1** immediately following worship service for our annual Advent Festival A lunch will be served; followed by crafts, games and other Christmas preparation fun. Plan now to attend. This is an event for all church, friends, neighbors, and families. If you would like to help with food, a craft, a game, or offer other ideas, please contact Jill Lopez.



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, myucc.org. Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

SUNDAY, November 17

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Put greenery up after church

Stewardship Sunday/Chili Cook off

Children's Church

MONDAY, October 18

BABE Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm Bowling VU

Worship Comm. 6pm

Church Board 7pm

TUESDAY, November 19

BABE Board Meeting 6pm

WEDNESDAY, November 20

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, November 21

Girl Scouts 4 pm

Dinner & Conversation 6 pm Old Chicago

FRIDAY, November 22

KFC Lock-in Friday 7pm- Saturday 8:30 am

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, November 24

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Decorate Church After worship

Children's Church

MONDAY, October 18

BABE Store 12-5:30

Friends 5-6:15 pm Worship Comm. 6pm

WEDNESDAY, November 20

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, November 28

THANKSGIVING



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Carole Klein's family, Franklyn Schroeder's family, and Luis Prada (pastor Debbie's brother-in-law). Let's include everyone in our prayers for the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying.

- Terry Goodman had a heart procedure done Friday . Prayers for good outcome.
- Laura Sanders, sister-in-law of Chris and Lori Sanders and aunt to Joel, Carson, and Avery, is currently at IU Medical Center. She will be having surgery soon to remove a mass and will then require further treatment. Please pray for Laura and her family
- Donna Gerhardt sent the following message and asked that we keep all in our prayers. My brother and his family, including their daughter and grandson, live together in Belleville, IL. My brother, Mike Abel, is in the hospital. He has COVID-19 and mobility difficulties. Once he is cleared for release, he will go to a rehab facility. My sister-in-law Mary Ann and their grandson Micah both have Covid. I ask for prayers of blessing, healing, and comfort for my family. Thank you.

Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 142, 1622 Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Aperia Care , - (Willow Manor under new ownership) C Wing Room 3, Vincennes, IN 47591 (Please send all church correspondence to this address going forward).

Marge Beamon, The Villages at Oak Ridge , -1694 Troy Rd. Washington, IN 47501

Home

Bruce Deckard

Gary Meyer

Michael Lankford

Gayle Huffer

Ellen Riggs

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (co-chair of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it! St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard (co-chair), Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.

- Congratulations to Allison, Brayton Cummins, and big brother Grady! They welcome a new baby girl, Jillian Claire, into the world—also, Proud grandparent Steve Cooper and great-grandparents Elaine and Jim Workman. Mom and baby are doing well!



Easy Thanksgiving Meal for Two

All items available at Dollar Tree for under \$8 total

Items Needed:

- 1 box Turkey Stuffing Mix
- 2 cans of turkey (packed in "tuna-type" cans)
- 1 packet of turkey gravy
- 1 packet of Idahoan Foods instant mashed potatoes
- 1 can of Glory Foods Market seasoned green beans

Place all items in a gallon zip lock bag with the Instructions.

Instructions:

To prepare, drain turkey broth and set aside. Mix turkey meat with the gravy packet and 2 cups of water in a pan and heat until warmed through and thickened. Prepare the stuffing according to package directions but replace the butter with the reserved turkey broth. Heat up your green beans and prepare mashed potatoes according to package instructions. As you can see this makes a great Thanksgiving meal for two.