

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday Celebration • May 5, 2024 • 10:00 AM



SAINT JAMES  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A JUST PEACE AND OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH**

**Founded in 1853**

Rev. Paul Werner, Pastor  
Ciaran Krueger, Music Director  
Christy Schrecengost, Church Administrator  
Jonathan Rizzo, Accompanist



@hamburgucc



hamburgucc.org

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Liturgist: Marie Nolan



***As a courtesy to those who have gathered for worship,  
please silence your phone and any other mobile devices.***

“When I say it’s you I like, I’m talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed.”

*Fred Rogers*

“Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh, be swift to love, make haste to be kind.”

*Henri-Frédéric Amiel*

“We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.”

*Madeleine L’Engle*

“In this life we are to become heaven so that God might find a home here.”

*Meister Eckhart*

“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.”

*Lao Tzu*

**Congregation: Bold print**  
\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We acknowledge that the land upon which St. James UCC stands was originally the ancestral and unceded territory of the Haudenosaunee and Erie people. We celebrate and honor the contributions that Native Americans have made in the past and continue to make today in the Western New York area and the Americas. We embrace the Haudenosaunee philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. Additionally, we commit to supporting initiatives that empower the local, national, and international Indigenous communities and to listening, learning, and taking actions to address injustices past and present that have impacted these communities and all God's creation.

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Welcome to St. James, an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, where we strive to be more fully the body of Christ. We are committed to welcoming and celebrating all people and the uniqueness we each bring. As people of faith, we boldly proclaim: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.**

## **CONTEMPORARY READING / CONTINUING TESTAMENT**

Rev. Paul Werner

## **INTROIT**

"O Come to Me, the Master Said" Ralph Vaughan Williams

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Please rise in body or in spirit to greet your neighbor with Christ's peace.*

**One:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Many:** **And also with you.**

*Please return to your seat as we begin to sing the opening hymn.*

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

"Come, My People"

SPP 12

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Marie Nolan

One: Christ gives us a new commandment:

**Many: “Love one another as I have loved you.”**

One: When we love one another as Christ has loved us, we will live joyful lives.

**Many: We will live with God’s love deep in our hearts.**

One: Let us worship and celebrate the one who shows us how to love.

**Many: Let us worship and celebrate with joy!**

## \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Marie

Holy Love, you are the one who nourishes us and leads us on. You are the one who gave birth to creation and is birthing something new in us. You are the one who rose from death to bridge the gap between earth and heaven, to erase the dividing line of death, by love. May your love overcome all our shortcomings and faults. May your love burn bright in us, so that we might know one another by your love and not by our own human measurements. Holy Love, as we worship and celebrate today, be born in us again and again. Amen.

## \*RESPONSE

“I Come with Joy” (*Verses 1 & 2*)

W&R 706

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians, far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ’s communion bread, in Christ’s communion bread.*

## CHILDREN’S TIME

### SCRIPTURE

Marie

**John 15:9-17** (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)

*As in several other places in the Gospel of John, chapters 13-17 use a familiar literary device of the time, an extended and stylized discourse. Containing much of John’s own thought about the relationship of Jesus to the church, this discourse includes some of Jesus’ most incisive teachings remembered by the church 60 or more years after the resurrection event. As if quoting Jesus, the writer or writers of the Gospel of John take us to the heart of the Christian discipleship: love for others as God has loved us. John thus interprets the meaning of Jesus’ death on the cross as his loving sacrifice of himself for us.*

As the Creator has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love. And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in God’s love and have kept God’s commandments. I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete.

*(continued on the next page) →*

This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from the Creator. It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of God in my name God will give you. This command I give you: that you love one another.

**\*HYMN**

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

NCH 396

## **RESPONDING WITH OUR GENEROSITY**

### **INVITATION**

### **OFFERTORY / GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

- *Please place your gift in the offering plate by the altar. Many of our members and friends give online. To do so, you are invited to use the information located on the back cover of this bulletin.*
- *Our gifts help sustain this community of faith by maintaining our facilities, supporting our staff, and providing the materials that make our ministry available to all.*

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

NCH 780

(Sing the version of the Doxology that is closest to your own heart.)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.**

**MESSAGE**

“Love Is the Answer. What Was the Question?”

Rev. Paul

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER / PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR**

**Our \_\_\_\*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom\*\* come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom\*\*, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*\*Use whatever language is closest to your own heart (Our Father, Our Creator, Our Father and Mother, etc.)*

*\*\*Or “kin-dom.”*

## **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **WORDS OF INVITATION**

**One:** Jesus sets the table where we dine today. Jesus’ welcome extends to all of humanity.

**Many:** **No matter how old you are, no matter your gender, no matter your culture, no matter whom you love, no matter your ability, no matter your race, no matter your faith journey, all are welcome at this table.**

**One:** No one can “earn” a place at this meal. Come of your own choice.

**Many:** **Bring your hopes and your history. Bring your deliberations and your doubts. Bring your cry for liberation. But what is most important is that you come as your whole self.**

**One:** We welcome all to this banquet table. This is a table of hospitality, sharing, celebration, and relationship. All are welcome, no exceptions. No one is turned away from this table. God is the host!

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

“Come to the Table”

SPP 8

### **WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

**One:** Jesus invited all to the feast of peace and new life. We remember, long ago, so our tradition says, that Jesus took bread, offered thanks for it, and broke it, inviting his friends—and us—to eat:

**Many:** **“This is my body broken for you. Take and eat. Do this in**

**remembrance of me.”**

**One:** We remember, long ago, so our tradition says, that Jesus took the cup of the fruit of the vine, offered thanks for it, and gave it to his friends—and us—to drink:

**Many:** **“This is the blood of the new covenant poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Take and drink. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

**One:** Bread, the bread of life. Fruit of the vine, the cup of blessing. When we partake of the bread and drink of the cup, we are reminding ourselves of the gift of life.

**Many:** **We follow the example of Jesus. We are to pour out the gift of life in a way that others might live.**

## **WORDS OF OPENNESS**

**Holy God, may our hearts and minds be alive to what is sacred in these symbols of bread and cup. May they open us to your guidance and to your love for us. May they open us to your love for all humankind and our stewardship of your creation. This is our hope, our common will, and the expression of our love and trust in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**We receive communion by the ancient rite of intinction:**

- 1. Please come forward by the center aisle.**
- 2. Approach the Pastor and take a piece of communion bread.**
- 3. Go to the Communion Assistant and slightly dip your bread in the chalice, while avoiding touching the contents with your fingers.**
- 4. After dipping your bread in the chalice, receive (consume) the elements. You need not wait to return to your seat to partake in communion.**
- 5. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.**

*All are welcome at God’s table. No one is turned away. You do not have to be baptized or be a member of this or any church to partake in this meal. We invite you to receive these gifts of life and blessing given freely by a compassionate God.*

*A gluten-free bread option is available. The chalice contains grape juice rather than wine. (Sealed pre-filled plastic cups are available for those who may prefer them.)*

*We will bring the communion elements to those who wish to remain seated.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION**

Amazing God, creator of us all, even in the expanse of your universe you know each of us. Thank you for uniting your people through this meal with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. Thank you for your presence in our lives today and every day. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

NCH 495

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*You may remain in the sanctuary for contemplation and reflection, or you may make your way to the Horton Lounge (Hospitality Room) for refreshments and fellowship.*

Love one  
♥ ANOTHER ♥  
as I have  
LOVED  
you  
-JOHN 15:12



# Come, My People

12

♩ = 124

Come, my peo - ple, wel - come to wor - ship. Love is in the warmth

— of this place. Sing to God a song — of thanks-giv - ing,

sing to God a song — of praise! 1. Gath - er in safe - ty, wel - comed in  
 2. Sto - ries of Je - sus show us the  
 3. Stand with each oth - er in one com -

Chris-tian love; God touch - es us with strength from a -  
 way to live, how to serve oth - ers, how to for -  
 - mu - ni - ty, work - ing to - geth - er God's reign to

- bove. see. Come, my peo - ple, wel - come to wor - ship.  
 - give.

Love is in the warmth — of this place. Sing to God a song

— of thanks-giv - ing, sing to God a song — of praise!

## I Come with Joy

*Unison* F  $\frac{B\flat}{F}$  F  $\frac{C^2}{F}$  F

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

Dm Csus Cm B $\flat$   $\frac{Am}{C}$  Am  $\frac{F}{A}$

loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 all are fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

Gm Am7  $\frac{F}{A}$  B $\flat$  B $\flat$ maj7 C(no3) Cm7 F

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
 stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

# Where Charity and Love Prevail

Latin hymn, "Ubi caritas et amor," 9th century  
Paraphr. by Omer Westendorf, 1961; alt.

John 13:34-35; 15:9-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; 1 John 4:7-21

With freedom

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found; Brought  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn; Let  
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess; And  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease; Be

here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.  
us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.  
let us love each oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours Christ's ho - ly peace.

8

# Come to the Banquet

♩=85 Dm C Dm  
Last time, Fine

Come to the ban-quet, there's a place for you!

1. Though you may - be have no mon - ey,
2. See, you are an hon - ored guest, from
3. Wo - man wise one, mo - ther, maid - en,
4. Work - er, fath - er, lit - tle boy, old
5. Wheth - er you've been lost or faith - ful,
6. Here is one who runs to meet you,

C A7

though you may - be feel un - wor - thy  
 con - stant serv - ing you may rest; so  
 see your plate with food is la - den  
 man or youth with - out em - ploy, come  
 wheth - er you've been wise or waste - ful,  
 lov - ing arms stretched out to greet you.

Dm Bb

in your strength or in your weak - ness  
 sit you down, be fed and blessed, for  
 and your place is set and wait - ing,  
 rest your wor - ry, here is joy, and  
 here's a place of rest and grace, and  
 Do not let your fear de - feat you.

Am Dm D.C.

you are wel - come, \_\_\_\_\_ come. \_\_\_\_\_

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,  
2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
3 Thus new pat-t-erns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.  
Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,  
Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.  
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.  
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun 5/5	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration
Mon 5/6	6:00 PM	Girl Scouts - Troop 34714 (Assembly Hall)
Tue 5/7		<i>Connector</i> weekly e-news articles are due (every Tuesday)
Tue 5/7	6:00 PM	Spring Sprucing - Indoor - <i>pizza provided</i>
Wed 5/8	7:00 PM	Cub Scouts - Pack 525 (Assembly Hall)
Thu 5/9	7:00 PM	Scouts BSA - Troops 525B & 509G (Assembly Hall)
Thu 5/9	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous (Horton Lounge)
Fri 5/10 - Tue 5/14		Rev. Paul on vacation
Sat 5/11	9:00 AM	Spring Sprucing - Outdoor - <i>pizza provided</i>
Sun 5/12	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tue 5/14	1:00 PM	Worship Team
Thu 5/16	11:00 AM	Mission and Social Action Team
Sat 5/18	11:00 AM	Celebration of Life: Barbara Reuter
Sun 5/19	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration - Pentecost Sunday
Sun 5/26	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration - Trinity Sunday
Thu 5/30 - Sat 6/1		Rev. Paul at NY Conference Annual Meeting in Binghamton
Tue 6/4	6:30 PM	Rainbow Collective of WNY Interfaith Pride Service
Sun 6/9	11:00 AM	Pride in the Park (Hamburg Memorial Park)
Sun 6/16	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration - Juneteenth Sunday
Tue 6/18	7:00 PM	Garden Party
Sun 6/23	10:00 AM	Sunday Celebration - Open and Affirming Sunday

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### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS (Christy)

Monday:	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday:	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday:	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Thursday:	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday:	Church Office closed

### REV. PAUL'S SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Monday:	Day off
Tuesday:	Office and by appointment
Wednesday:	Office and by appointment
Thursday:	MORNING: Sparks of Hope Faith Community Network meeting
	AFTERNOON: Office and by appointment
Friday:	Vacation day
Saturday:	Vacation day

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## BE A SUNDAY VOLUNTEER!

Please use the links below to sign up for Sunday volunteer opportunities. Thank you!

<b>Liturgists:</b>	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccliturgists">https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccliturgists</a>
<b>Greeters:</b>	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccgreeters">https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccgreeters</a>
<b>Altar flowers:</b>	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccflowers">https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccflowers</a>
<b>After-church coffee and fellowship:</b>	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccfellowship">https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccfellowship</a>

# Spring Sprucing

## Indoor

Cleaning & Organizing

**Tuesday, May 7th**

**6:00 PM**

## Outdoor

Cleanup & Yardwork

**Saturday, May 11th**

**9:00 AM**

Pizza will be provided at both Spring Sprucing events.

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## What is the United Church of Christ?

The United Church of Christ traces its roots to the Protestant Reformation, the Pilgrims of the *Mayflower*, and traditions indigenous to the United States. There are five historic “streams” that formed the UCC: Congregational, Christian, Afro-Christian, Evangelical, and Reformed.

- In 1931, the Christian Church, along with the Afro-Christian Convention, joined with the Congregational Churches to form the Congregational Christian Churches. Then, in 1934, the Reformed Church in the United States and the Evangelical Synod of North America united to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Both of these denominations merged to form the United Church of Christ in 1957. We are a united and uniting church.
- The UCC weaves God’s message of hope and extravagant welcome with social action for justice and peace, and our response to the demands of our faith is woven into the history of our country.
- We were the first historically white denomination to ordain an African American (1785) and the first in the modern era to ordain a woman (1853). We were the first mainline denomination to ordain an openly gay man (1972) and affirm marriage equality (2005). We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement, the Social Gospel movement, and the Civil Rights Movement, taking seriously Jesus’ commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Learn more about the UCC’s “firsts”: <https://www.hamburgucc.org/about-the-ucc>

## Welcome to St. James United Church of Christ

- We believe that faith is a matter of heart and mind.
- We believe that taking the Bible seriously does not mean taking it literally.
- We believe that God embraces all people equally.
- We believe that we are called to be nothing less than global citizens.
- We believe that the social expression of love is justice.
- We believe that every generation is called to discover new faith traditions.
- We believe that God continues to speak through the actions and words of people today, just as in times of old.



We are a **Just Peace** church. In the United Church of Christ, Just Peace churches promote peace with justice (a just peace) as an expression of God's love. We support peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, and war, and we seek the ways of justice and peace in order to make a difference in our lives and the lives of all who experience injustice and violence.

We are an **Open and Affirming** church. In the United Church of Christ, Open and Affirming churches covenant to welcome and celebrate people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Likewise, we welcome and celebrate people of every faith experience, race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, background, viewpoint, and life experience. If you struggle with addiction, are recovering from trauma, or have ever felt the pain of exclusion, you are embraced here.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.**

To receive our **weekly e-news**, *The St. James Connector*, scan the QR code or go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/stjamesuccnews>



For **online giving**, scan the QR code or go to:  
<https://www.hamburgucc.org/giving>



**St. James United Church of Christ**

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