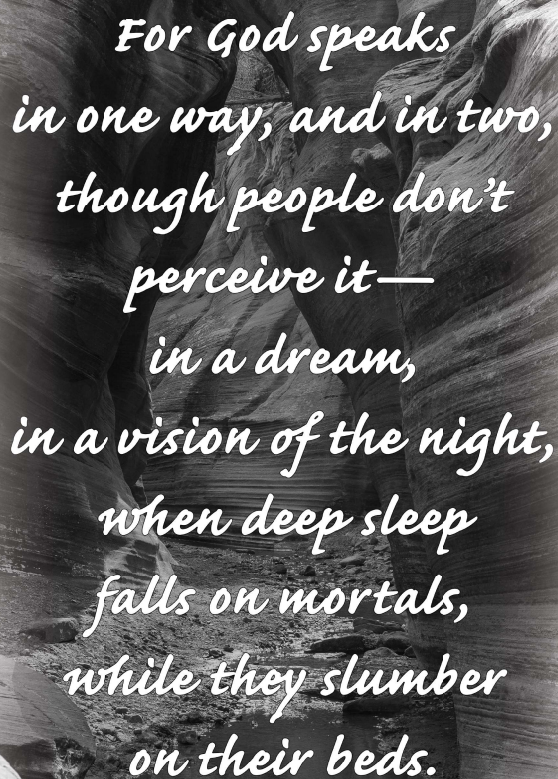


St. John United Church of Christ  
301 S. Market Street  
New Athens, Illinois 62264



*For God speaks  
in one way, and in two,  
though people don't  
perceive it—  
in a dream,  
in a vision of the night,  
when deep sleep  
falls on mortals,  
while they slumber  
on their beds.*

*Job 33:14-15*

*The Second Wednesday  
In Lent*

March 13, 2019

*Evening Worship at 7 pm*

*Our Wednesday night services  
are preceded by  
Soup and Sandwich Suppers  
in the church dining hall.*

*Serving begins at 5:30 pm  
and runs through 6:30 pm.*

*Learn More About Us*  
[stjohnuccnewathens.com](http://stjohnuccnewathens.com)

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## THE EVENING PRELUDE, CALL OF THE BELL

### OPENING HYMN

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

*Tune, "Behold, a Sower"*

Hymnal, No. 480

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*From Mark 4, Psalm 3, Genesis 28, Proverbs 3*

A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat. Jesus was in the stern, asleep. The disciples woke him and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're perishing?"

**I cry aloud to the LORD, and the LORD answers me.**

**I lie down and sleep, for the LORD sustains me.**

Jesus rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

**Jacob woke from his sleep and said,**

**"Surely the LORD is in this place—and I didn't know it!"**

*Precious Lord, take my hand Lead me on, let me stand*

*I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;*

*Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light:*

*Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

Awestruck, they asked, "Who is this, that the wind and the sea obey him?"

**Don't be afraid of the storm that strikes the wicked;**

**for the LORD will be your confidence.**

*When the darkness appears and the night draws near,*

*And the day is past and gone,*

*At the river I stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand:*

*Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The pagan general Sisera sought refuge first in the power of arms, and then in the tent of a woman named Jael.

Both proved worthless, holy God—

the arms, because their power is never final,

and the tent because Jael had a strong faith

and a stronger sense of independence that even a general couldn't conquer.

We confess to you that, like Sisera,

we often seek refuge in the wrong places.

We rely on our reputation, or our wealth,

or our plans and schemes to get us through life, forgetting that none of them have the last word,

any more than did Sisera's armies.

In these days of Lent, might we seek shelter in the cross of Christ,  
a never-failing source of grace and strength,  
“the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land.” Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### TONIGHT'S PSALM

*From Psalm 46*

God is our refuge and our strength, who from of old has helped us in our distress.

**Therefore we fear nothing—  
even if the earth should open in front of us  
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea,  
even if the earth's waters rage  
and the mountains tumble with its heaving.**

Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble, God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.

**The LORD of hosts is with us—  
our stronghold is the God of Israel!**

Come, see what the LORD has done—putting an end to war from one end of the earth to the other, breaking bows, splintering spears, and setting chariots on fire.

**“Be still, and know that I am God!**

**I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted upon the earth.”**

The LORD of hosts is with us—our stronghold is the God of Israel!

### THEME HYMN

*Tune: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”*

Sometimes, at night, we lay awake and sleep is hard to find,  
As worries, cares, and what-might-be all fill our troubled minds.

At other times our slumber proves a refuge snug and safe,  
Still, God can use it as a way to call our lives to faith.

A foreign soldier on the run thought Jael's tent was safe,  
Till, lulled to sleep with rug and milk, he found what was at stake.

Asleep, awake, we live each day as children of your grace.  
Be with us, God, as, with your help, life's crosses we all face.

### TONIGHT'S SCRIPTURE

Judges 4:14-22

### VISIONS OF THE NIGHT

**"A Holey Headache"**

### EVENING PRAYERS

### THE OFFERING

## CLOSING LITANY

(From Proverbs 3)

If we sit down, we won't be afraid;

**when we lie down, our sleep will be sweet.**

We won't be afraid of sudden panic, or of the storm that strikes the wicked;

**for the LORD will be our confidence, and will keep our feet from stumbling.**

*Just a closer walk with thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

## BENEDICTION

### THE CLOSING HYMN

Hymnal, No. 161

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

## POSTLUDE

This story comes courtesy of Father Tony Kadavil. The events in question happened in 2003.



*Antoine Yates lived in New York City and for some inexplicable reason brought home a 2-month-old tiger cub and later an alligator. It's not clear where he found them. But they were with him for two years — in his apartment. What was a little tiger cub became a 500 pound Bengal tiger monstrosity. It was inevitable.*

*The police got a call about a "dog" bite, and when they got to the 19-story public housing apartment building, they discovered Yates in the lobby with injuries to his right arm and leg. Someone alerted them of the possibility of a "wild animal" in his apartment. A fourth-floor resident complained that urine had seeped through her ceiling from Yates' apartment.*

*When they arrived, the police peered through a hole and saw the huge cat prowling around in the apartment. To make a long story short, it took a contingent of officers at the door, and some rappelling from the roof, to use a dart gun to bring this animal under control.*

*When they entered the apartment, they found the big cat lying atop some newspapers. The alligator was nearby. Both animals were relocated to shelters. As for Yates, he missed the tiger, demonstrating that it's possible to be in love with the very things that can kill you.*

So it is with you and with me, friends. The world's biggest temptations, things we love so much that they even rule our lives, are the very things that can be the spiritual death of us. Just ask Sisera!

—Pastor Koch



**March 20**  
**Genesis 28:10-17**  
**"This Pillow**  
**Is Hard As a Rock!"**

Sleeping on an unlikely pillow, Jacob had an even more unlikely dream. Hear about his nighttime vision and wonder, with him, about other places where God is present, but we don't realize it.

**March 27**  
**Matthew 25:1-13**  
**"Always a Bridesmaid..."**

Jesus told a parable about ten bridesmaids, half of whom he calls "foolish," the other half, "wise." Though all fell asleep waiting for a long-delayed bridegroom, those who thought ahead had enough oil to greet him with their lamps. We'll hear from one of the "foolish five" who did not.

**April 3**  
**Mark 4:35-41**  
**"Don't You Care, Jesus?"**

This time, Jesus is the one asleep—and during a violent storm, at that. As he snoozes on, seemingly oblivious to everything going on around him, his disciples do everything they can to stay afloat. Finally, in danger of going under, they wake Jesus up and ask him, "Teacher, don't you care that we're perishing?" We'll hear how Jesus' answer, in word and deed, forever changed the way one of those disciples looked at the world.

**April 10**  
**John 19:25-27**  
**"A Mother's Worst Nightmare"**

That awful day on Golgotha, Mary probably wished everything happening was a dream, that she could wake up and make it all vanish. Instead, she endured a living nightmare, in the midst of which her dying son still spoke words of provision and care. She'll share how she felt that day, as well as how her feelings changed in the days that followed.

*Please take a few minutes to fill out this slip, noting prayer concerns on the back. If you're a visitor with us today, we hope you'll come again!*

March 13, 2019 (Lenten Worship)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Member  Visitor  Child/Youth  Looking for a Church Home  
 Desire a Call

*Visitors--If you're comfortable doing so, please tell us a little about yourself.*

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We want to know what you think! Please include comments, suggestions, or other feedback below:



**Pastor**  
Dr. Robert Koch

**Student Pastor**  
Tarrah Vaupel

**Organist**  
Julie Daab

**Ushers**  
Keith Reuss  
Becky Stolte



*Prayer Joys and Concerns*

Please pray for:

- Mention this joy/concern during morning prayers.
- Please pray for this joy/concern silently.

**Welcome to Lenten worship!**

***Please fill out and tear off*** your Attendance/ Prayer Concern slip before worship begins. Pass it to the center aisle, where ushers will collect it.

***Please note that large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices*** are available from our ushers.

***Children are always welcome*** in worship at St. John's. Live closed circuit TV broadcasts of our services are available in the foyer fellowship room, though, for parents who may decide that their child needs a break from worship temporarily.

***If this Holy Communion is celebrated*** as part of tonight's worship service, we invite all Christians welcome at Christ's table in their own family of faith to join us here. Both wine and grape juice area always offered.



Sign me up for the following:

I'm interested in these opportunities to serve and grow:

- Prayer Partners
- "Doughnut time" helper
- Usher
- Attend Bible study
- Teach Sunday School
- Serve on a committee
- Youth group volunteer