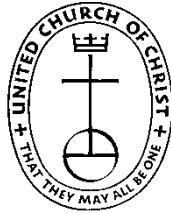


March 5, 2017

**ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Our mission is to worship and serve God in our church,
community and the world.**



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serve God in our church, community and the world.

March 5, 2015

10:00 AM

First Sunday of Lent

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE

PRELUDE: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather at the beginning of Lent, the beginning of the road to
Jerusalem. Let us praise God for the journey!

*HYMN OF PRAISE: “Let Me Enter God’s Own Dwelling”, vs. 1-4
#67 NCH/screen

*INVOCATION:

Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself
out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.

**Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity,
that the discipline of these forty days
may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship,
and whet our thirst for the living water you offer
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of wilderness and water,
your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,
but open ourselves to blessing,
through the cleansing depths of repentance
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.**

*MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND ACT OF PRAISE

Rejoice! Evil is powerless, peace is your reality. You are forgiven in peace and love.

Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH CHILDREN “Unload!”

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 40: 21-31 Pgs. 880-881

*GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11 Pg. 1172

SERMON: The Lord is My Shepherd

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: “I Want Jesus to Go with Me”,
490 NCH/screen

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*Each week we pray for a family or individual from our Congregation in addition to those on our prayer list. Today we lift up **Rich Williams**. Prayers for healing: **Darleen Bax, Barbara Moran, Alan Canterbury, Russ Hartmann, Ardella Morris**.*

PRAYER RESPONSE: #775 NCH/screen

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

INVITATION:

OFFERTORY “Shepherd of Love” John W. Peterson

*DOXOLOGY: #780/NCH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

These gifts will be blessed by you, O loving God.

**Blessed through honest questioning,
blessed through serving the downhearted,
blessed in common endeavor. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

NCH p. 5

We will begin the communion liturgy under the “Invitation” section. When noted, use the “B” liturgy.

*SENDING HYMN: “We Are Called”,

insert/screen

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “With Sounding Brass”

Chester Nordman

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our Church Workers for today:

Worship Leader --Nancy Eisenhauer

Guest Officiant - Rev. Janet Darmour-Paul

Organist – Sharon Banjavcic

Lector - Tiffany Baldwin

Ushers – Wayne Schlosser & Carol Bulva

Activities of the church:

Today – The children's DuBois quilt, Made by the ladies of St. John, Mascoutah, is in the narthex. Raffle chances are available.

Tuesday – Boy Scouts in evening

Wednesday – Lenten dinner and Bible study. Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper and bible study of the 23rd Psalm.

Pennies for Mission go to Heifer Project this month. The children of the church thank you for your generous support of their mission.