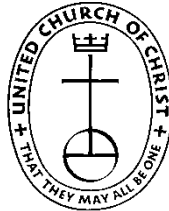


October 15, 2017 – 10:00 am  
19th Sunday After Pentecost  
ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**An Open and Affirming congregation  
where all are welcome**

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



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Fairview Heights, IL

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Fax 397-1189

Please respond with words in **bold print**.

\*Please stand if comfortably able

\*\*\*\*\*

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE:

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Come away from the valleys of misplaced loyalty.

Come, seeking to meet the God of all worlds.

**Many: We have come to praise God and give thanks.**

**We believe God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: We come together that our faith might be strengthened.

We seek the strengthen to live by all we profess.

**Many: God's awesome deeds saved or ancestors.**

**Surely God's steadfast love continues with us.**

One: God continues to deliver us in time of distress.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

**Many: We rejoice that God is near and available to us.**

**We hear God welcoming us to this time of prayer.**

\*OPENING HYMN: "**God's Love Endures Forever**"

(Words on the screen)

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

**Gracious God, you have invited and welcomed us to this place of worship. You draw us away from the idols we create to take your place. When we come together, we sense that there is nothing in life that can substitute for a vital relationship with you. Yet we are only dimly aware of who you are. All the mysteries of the universe are in your hands, yet you have made yourself known among the people of this earth. We catch glimpses of your work among us and are amazed. We want to meet you again today, as for the first time. Touch us. Remake us. Help us to stand firm in the faith. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA: #759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,  
Three-in-One; As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 32:1-14**  
Lay Liturgist (Pages 107 in the Pew Bible)

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 22:1-14**  
Pastor Rosemary (Pages 1201 in the Pew Bible)

**SERMON: "Did You Send in Your RSVP?"**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #506 "What a Friend  
We Have in Jesus"**

**PASTORAL PRAYER** beginning with silent personal prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: NCH #773**  
**Remember me, remember me,  
O Jesus, remember me.**

**OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES**

**OFFERTORY:**

**\*DOXOLOGY: # 780**  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**May our offerings help to prepare many to feast at your banquet table. May our generosity reflect the amazing abundance you entrust to our care. As we find joy in giving, may others be inspired to give their best, and may all of us realize your peace, dwelling within and among us as we serve in Christ's name. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN: #419 **"Now Thank We All Our God"**

DURING THE HYMN THE LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED AND CARRIED OUT INTO THE WORLD.

\*BENEDICTION:

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #82 (Verse One)

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;  
Waking sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;  
In my love's baptismal river have made you mine forever,  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

\*POSTLUDE:

To be continued

**PRAYER LIST:** *Today we lift up in prayer this family.*

*And prayers for healing:*

*Serving in Christ's Name:*

**Ministers** – All members of St. John UCC

*Participants in Today's Worship:*

**Pastor** – Rev. Rosemary Captain

**Minister of Music** – Sharon Banjavcic

**Ushers** - Jim Eisenhauer and Barb Whitaker