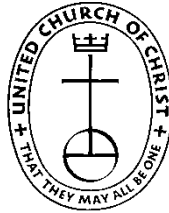


February 25, 2018 – 10:00 am  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

# ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



**Mark 8:34b "Take up your cross and follow me"**

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

\*Please stand if comfortably able

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## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: **“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”** Lani Smith

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: We are invited to walk with God.

We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

**MANY: How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator! We bring our praise to glorify God.**

One: God calls us by name and gives us new names.

We are summoned to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

**MANY: God not only speaks to us but also listens. God hears our cries and meets our need.**

One: Let the ends of the earth remember and turn to God.

Let the families of all nations worship the Creator.

**MANY: We will pay our vows to the One who calls us. We praise the God of all nations and all peoples. In our hearts we sense an eternal design**

\*OPENING HYMN: **“Praise God Almighty”** (on screen)

Sung to the tune Melita

\*CALL TO CONFESSION:

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have set our minds on human things. We have sought to gain the world – so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied. Life’s meaning eludes us. Your ways seem out of date; your promises appear as the hopes and dreams of a past generation. But in our hearts we sense an eternal design which is for all generations, a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore. O God, we confess our need for you.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

\*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 READINGS: **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

EPISTLE READING: **Romans 4:13-25**

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

\*GOSPEL LESSON: **Mark 8:31-38** Pastor Rosemary

SERMON: **“The Elephant in the Room”**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **#204 “Take Up Your Cross”**

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL AND OFFICERS:

PASTORAL PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER:  
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it 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 #774**

**Shepherd, lead, lead me in your righteousness,  
make your way plain before my face. For it is you, God,  
you, God only, who makes me to lie down in safety.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: **“We Walk By Faith”** Bertha R. Frick

\*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.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN: **#256 “We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”**

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

\*BENEDICTION:

THE BELL RINGS, AS WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD, TO SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRIST TO ALL.

POSTLUDE: **“Be Thou Exalted”** Chester Nordman

**“Our Worship has ended – Now our Service begins.”**

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