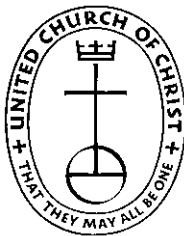


February 4, 2018 – 10:00 am
4th Sunday After the Epiphany

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, ILL



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



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

10207 Lincoln Trail
Fairview Heights, IL

Telephone 397-6323
e-mail: stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com

Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Fax 397-1189

Rev. Rosemary Captain

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

*Please stand if comfortably able

(The Delightful Lightness of Being in Light: Service Prayers with Holy Communion for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Kaji Dousa, a United Church of Christ Pastor who serves as a pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City.)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: "Take the Name of Jesus with You" Stewart Landon

*UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Good people of the church, lift up your eyes and see.

**All: Have you not seen? Have you not heard?
Our God greets us here.**

One: Good servants of the Most High, Open your ears to hear.

**All: Have you not seen? Have you not heard?
Our God meets us here.**

One: Good children of the light, open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

**All: For we have seen, heard and known from the
beginning to the end, our God...is.**

*UNISON GATHERING PRAYER:

Eternal God, Creator of the universe...and then some.

We call on you, you who greet us here.

**We give you thanks for making it possible to gather,
and to ponder your eternal mysteries.**

**Make us, creatures of this time and space,
ready collaborators with your endless grace. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN: "You Are My All in All" (on screen)

*UNISON CONFESSON:

One: What do we hold and treasure most?

All: Is it the promises of God?

One: What captivates our attention?

All: Is it the grace of God?

One: God of mercy and grace:

All: We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable. We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness.

One: Heal us, O God, to make us better healers.

Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders.

Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression. We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: Have you known? Have you heard?

Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings

Strengthening us so that we won't be weary.

The burden of sin is but a far and distant memory

For, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven.

All: God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all.

One: Let us give God our thanks and praise.

*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: **Isaiah 40:28-31**

Lay Liturgist

(Pages 881 in pew Bibles)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON:

Mark 1:29-39

(Pages 1215 - 1216 in the Pew Bibles)

Here what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON:

“Mark 1:38b Jesus says, ‘That’s why I have come.’”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: **#472 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer.

PRAYER RESPONSE: **#773 “Remember Me”**

Remember me, remember me,

O Jesus, remember me.

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES:

OFFERTORY: “On Eagles Wings” Michael Joncas

*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:

God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give.

We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns. We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HOLY COMMUNION:

May God be with you

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

We freely give God thanks and praise.

It is right and fitting, beautiful and holy that we should,
in ceaseless joy give our thanks and praise to you,
Holy and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise
with the church that is, was, and shall be forever,
we glorify you, joining this unending song:

*SANCTUS: #790

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy are you, Eternal One.
You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth
setting light into being, casting the stars in the sky,
founding the evolving earth, and all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom.
you look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures.
You visit upon the downtrodden with presence, grace,
and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus,
who reached into unexpected places,
calling women beyond the limits of their times,
equipping men for nurturing love,
welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so, we recall that on the night of betrayal and
desertion, the light of the world took bread, broke and
gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body,
given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And, in like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup
and after giving thanks gave it to them saying,

"This is the cup of the new covenant poured out for you

and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.”

Life’s greatest feast before us, we excitedly proclaim:

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Dear God, you transform. You transform all that is before you so that at the touch of your grace we are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.
You bring light to all peoples
Light to the nations.
Light into our hearts.
Light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.
Transform, illumine, bless.
Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup
into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing,
Hold us as your own
Renew us as your people
For the sake of the world you love.**

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation
both now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS: (Please hold the elements until all have been served, so that we may partake together.)

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Let us pray:

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.

We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.

May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: **#465 “Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Ways”**

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

*BENEDICTION:

May God bless and keep you
May God's face shine through yours.
And may the glorious, + Triune God
Protect and keep you
All the days long. **Amen.**

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

*POSTLUDE: Surely Goodness and Mercy” Roger C. Wilson

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

The rose on the altar is in honor of Trenton Alexander Pickens, born Sunday, January 28 to Stacie and Tim Pickens. Congratulations to Stacie and Tim and to grandparents, Sharon and Steve Banjavcic.



PRAYER LIST: *Today we lift up in prayer* Louise Cohlmeier
And prayers for healing: Ardella Morris, LaVerne Kistler, Terry Kissel, Darlene Schaperkoetter, Ted Bauer, Syd Safriet, Tom Petroff, Mary Ann Glen, Charles Bogner, Sarah Paul, Fred Miller, Russ Hursey, David Seneczyn

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

Liturgist – Hunter Brink & Tyler Underwood

Ushers – Melinda Stidham and Barb Whitaker

Activities of the church:

Every Sunday - Adult Sunday school at 8:45 a.m.

Today - Refreshments served after worship in Fellowship hall.

Evening Circle is selling candy in the narthex. **DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR SUB SANDWICHES.**

Tuesday – Boy Scouts