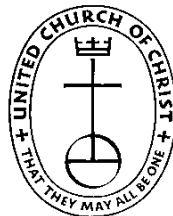


January 14, 2018 – 10:00 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany  
“Come, follow me.”



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.

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Fax 397-1189

Rev. Rosemary Captain

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: “Be Thou Vision” Mary Ellen Kerrick

\*UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on Psalm 139

**We’ve come to worship God,  
who loved us before we were yet born,  
who knows us even better than we know ourselves,  
whose presence never leaves us,  
and whose love for us never ceases.  
This is our God.  
Let’s worship together!**

\*OPENING HYMN: “**Jesus Calls Us**” (on screen)

\*CALL TO CONFESSION:

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (inspired by Psalm 139)

Written by Rev. Susan A. Blaine and Rev. Scott Ressman

**God, you know us better than we know ourselves.**

**You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations,  
our sins. And you love us still.**

**Forgive us when we don’t believe such love is true or  
possible; When we wonder how You could love us just as we  
are, when we forget our intricate construction, fearfully,  
wonderfully made, in Your image!**

**Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from  
you. Break down the walls, push aside the pride,  
and help us to trust anew. You know our hearts.  
And you love us still. Amen.**

Silence for personal confession.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

\*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: **1 Samuel 3:1-20**  
Lay Liturgist (Pages 341-342 in pew Bibles)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

\*GOSPEL LESSON: **John 1:43-51**  
(Pages 1290 - 1291 in the Pew Bible)

This is the Word of God. It is true and can be trusted.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON: **“Would you follow this guy?”**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: **“Where He Leads Me”** (on screen)

PASTORAL PRAYER:  
Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer.

**Prayer Litany** written by Christine Sine, inspired by Martin Luther King’s  
“I Have a Dream” speech.

May we dream of a world made new,  
**Where together we shout for justice,  
And as one we fight against oppression.**  
May we dream of a world made new,  
**Where together we seek God’s righteousness  
And as one we sing God’s praise.**  
May we dream of a world made new,  
**Where together we climb God’s mountain,  
And as one we enter the promised land.**  
May we dream of a world made new,  
**Where together we proclaim the good news of God’s  
kingdom,  
And as one we enjoy its peace, and abundance and love.  
Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: #812 **“Amen, Amen, Amen”**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: "Here I Am, Lord" Daniel Schutte

\*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:

**We have heard you calling us, loving God. We believe your church can be Christ's healing presence. Show us the way to be messengers of your gentle judgment and powerful good news. May our offerings be used for the transformation of church and society, individuals and groups. Amen**

\*HOLY COMMUNION: (insert and on screen)

\*SENDING HYMN: **"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**  
(on screen)

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

\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION AND COMMISSION:  
(on screen):

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

\*POSTLUDE: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Benton Price

**"Our Worship has ended – Now our Service begins."**

HOLY COMMUNION: (Insert)

### **Prayer at the Table: Christmas**

Written by Cheryl Lawrie

The bread and wine we're about to share  
joins us to the people throughout history and across the world  
who have come to this meal in search of life.

Just as Jesus' birth was for the whole world  
this bread and wine is for everyone, for the hungry,  
for the lost, for those who search and those who are found;  
for those who question and those who know peace  
this is bread and wine for everyone.

Let us pray

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful,  
and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world,  
for your promises to your people, and for the life we know in Jesus  
Christ your son. Born of Mary, he shares our life.  
Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Leading his followers, he  
guides us. Dying on the cross, he loves us. Risen from the dead,  
he gives new life.

On the night before Jesus died, he had supper with his friends.  
He took bread, thanked you, as we have thanked you,  
broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, saying:  
this is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember  
me. After supper he took the wine, thanked you for it,  
and passed it to his friends, saying: This cup is the new promise  
God has made with you in my blood. Each time you do this,  
remember me.

We pray, God of love, that you will send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and what we do here: that we and these signs, touched by your  
Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other  
and to all the world. Amen.

**You are our life;**  
**You are our hope;**

**You are our peace;  
And we praise you.**

In communion we join ourselves to all your people and we pray:

**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.**

The bread which we break is an offering of life to us all.  
The cup which we take is a celebration of love for us all.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Lamb of God, you find us in our lostness, **lift us up.**  
Lamb of God, you lead us to your fold, **hold us close.**  
Lamb of God, you conquer all injustice, **we cry for peace.**

SHARING THE ELEMENTS:

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**We thank you, God of compassion,  
that you have nourished us with the bread of life  
and the wine of hope.**

**As in Christ your love flowed out to those around him,  
so let your love flow through us to others.**

**As in Christ your life was broken, so let your life meet  
us in our brokenness and release hope in us and others,  
through Jesus our hope and our life.**

**Amen**

## Here I Am, Send Me

A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name. . . 'Samuel';  
Fishermen once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;  
And still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

**Here I am. Send me.**

Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;  
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;  
And still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

**Here I am. Send me.**

Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;  
Martin Luther King, Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;  
And still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

**Here I am. Send me.**

The Voice beckons from humble places. . .  
in the tears of hungry children,  
in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly,  
in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;  
and still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

**Here I am. Send me.**

A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice;  
A struggling church hears the Voice and turns;  
and still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

**Here I am. Send me.**

— written by Katherine Hawker