

April 2, 2017 – 10:00 am  
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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Fairview Heights, IL

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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: “ How Deep the Father’s Love for Us’

Carol Tornquist

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on Ezekiel 37:1-14

One: God calls us from the valley of dry bones.  
Come, listen for a word from our God.

**MANY: We hear God calling us in a far distant voice.  
We had nearly forgotten God’s care for us.**

One: The Spirit breathes life into our dry bones.  
God offers hope when we have lost our way.

**MANY: Our souls wait for the refreshment God offers.  
Our spirits are filled with great expectation.**

One: Christ came as a light to all the world.  
Christ comes among us today to light our way.

**MANY: We hear the teacher calling for us.  
Christ unbinds us that we may see and believe.**

\*OPENING HYMN: **NCH #43**

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION:

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Let us pray

**Out of the depths we cry to you, O God. Hear our prayers, the confession of our neglect, the admission of our desire to rule in your place. Like the house of Israel in Ezekiel’s time, we are cut off from communion with you. We are like dead people, going through the motions of living. We cry out for forgiveness and a new start. We long to know you and to live in reverence before you. By your steadfast love, redeem us from our iniquities and raise us up to serve you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

\*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.**

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Lay Liturgist

PSALM 130:1-8

Pastor Rosemary

A DIALOGUE READING OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE:

John 11:1-45

NARRATOR: Pastor Rosemary

MARY – Anne

MARTHA – Stacie

THOMAS – Mike

JESUS - Lew

SERMON: “Being There”

Pastor Rosemary

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH #486 “I Must Tell Jesus”**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

*You are invited to pray each week for a specific family or individual from our Congregation, in addition to those on our prayer list. Today we lift up in prayer the family of Bill & Trisann Underood. Prayers for healing: Darleen Bax, Alan Canterbury, Barbara Moran, Ardella Morris, Russ Hartmann & Darlene Schaperkoetter.*

PRAYER RESPONSE: #773

**Remember me, remember me, O Jesus remember me.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” Rick Founds

\*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.**

\*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.**

\*HOLY COMMUNION:

This table is not my table, the table of St. John, or the table of the UCC. This is the Lord's Table, and as He turned no way away, neither do we. Everyone is welcome.

Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for the Spirit. Come to this table, then, my brothers and sisters, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for all of us so that we might again know God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

God be with you!

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Let us pray. Holy God, we praise and bless You for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to You, the source of all blessing. We thank You for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank You especially that in the fullness of time You sent Jesus, born of Mary to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave, You raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your Realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name.

**SANCTUS: NCH #790**

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

(be seated)

When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room with his closest friends and relatives. As he had done so many times before, he took the bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to the disciples, this time saying, "Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise after the meal he took a cup and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Truly I will never drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in the Realm of God."

**By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection and await Christ's coming again.**

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us that, as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, be united with Christ and with one another, and continue faithfully in all things.

**In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.**

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Sharing the elements.

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN: NCH #288 "Let It Breathe On Me"

\*BENEDICTION:

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #393 First Verse

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE: "March in D"

G. F. Handel

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*Participants in worship today:*

**Pastor** – Pastor Rosemary Captain

**Organist** – Sharon Banjavcic

**Liturgist** - Sharon Banjavcic

**Ushers** – Ginny Ganschinietz, Sue Ganschinietz

*Activities of the church:*

**Tuesday** – Boy Scouts

**Wednesday** – Supper and Bible study 6 p.m.

**Saturday** – Fellowship hall rented 12:30 till 6 p.m.

**Next Sunday** – Palm Sunday Breakfast served 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.