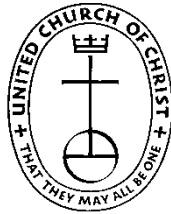


February 19, 2017

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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February 19, 2017

10:00 AM

A Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US TO SILENT REVERENCE

PRELUDE “We Praise You, O God” Anna Laura Page
Duet: Nancy Eisenhauer, Piano, Sharon Banjavcic, Organ

***CALL TO WORSHIP (From Ecclesiastes)**

For everything there is a season

and a time for every matter under heaven...

A time to look back,

And a time to look forward, trusting in God.

Blessed be the Lord our God, who holds all things together.

Praise be!

***SONG OF PRAISE**

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

#423/NCH, On Screen

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Holy God, forgive us all our sins and rouse us to sincere repentance, and by the power of your Holy Spirit free us to live as your holy people, with Jesus Christ, our Lord, now and forever. Amen

MOMENT OF SILENCE

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

And now, by the power invested in me as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Amen.

Anthem “Every Time I Think of You” Ruth Elaine Schram

TIME WITH CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Pg. 259, CEB

*GOSPEL

To Come
Pg. , CEB

SERMON

“On the Brink of Everything”

*SONG OF THE DAY

“Here I Am Lord”

Insert/On Screen

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Each week we pray for a family or individual from our Congregation in addition to those in need of healing. Today we lift up Rev. Jim and Cami. Prayers for healing: Alan Canterbury, Darleen Bax, Dennis Ford, Russ Hartmann, Ardella Morris, Larry Cates (Pat Bregen).

ORGAN RESPONSE

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

“The Hands of Jesus”

Roger C. Wilson

Invitation

*Doxology

#780/NCH, On Screen

*Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***THE INVITATION**

May God be with you.

And also with you

Open your hearts.

We open them to God and to One Another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Jesus, Divine Bread-Baker, each time we gather in memory to break this bread and drink this cup we share its richness in the midst of our poverty and we remember:

You are as the bread of our lives.

You are the One who enters in the hungry places of our hearts.

You are the One who invites us always to choose life, even when our world, and even our inner places, tastes of death, pain and weariness.

This bread, which binds us together, houses the sacred in common earthen gifts, proclaiming that the ordinary is but a mask of the holy.

CONSECRATION

Blessed are You, O God, for bringing us to this Table. We remember that night among friends, the night of deathly betrayal, when Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and share with his disciples, saying:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.

Later in the evening, taking the cup, Jesus gave thanks and shared it, saying drink this all of you;

This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and the many.

Come now, unsettling Spirit of Hope, be present in the mystery of this Holy Meal and lead us out to follow the risk-taking Christ.

Because bread must be broken before it can be shared, we break this bread, remembering the brokenness of our world and declaring that our hope of wholeness and shalom is in Christ.

By eating this bread we become One in the hope.

We pour this wine, remembering the pain and bloodshed of our world and declaring our hope in the overflowing love of Christ.

By drinking this wine we become One in the hope.

DISTRIBUTION

Service this morning will be by intinction. Ushers escort you forward to a portion of bread which can be dipped in a chalice of wine or juice.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Blessed be God who has raised us and shaped us from the dust.

Blessed be God who has brought us to this table.

Blessed be God who has given us the bread of life.

Blessed be God who has fed us with the food of love.

Our hands and our hearts were empty.

Blessed be God who has filled us with hope.

Let us go out, risking the reality of the Gospel.

We go in the name of Christ.

ENDING OF AUTHORIZED MINISTRY

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

On Nov. 11, 2011, St. John United Church of Christ called the Rev. James H. Nolan to serve as pastor and teacher.

PASTOR

I thank St. John United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last five –plus years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

CONGREGATION

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

PASTOR

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

***VOWS OF RELEASE**

All who are able may stand for these or similar words.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

Do you, the members and friends of St. John United Church of Christ release Rev. James H. Nolan from the duties of pastor and teacher?

CONGREGATION

We do, with the help of God.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry soon to begin as interim pastor and teacher of Trinity United Church of Christ in Wadsworth, Ohio?

CONGREGATION

We do, with the help of God.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

Do you, Rev. Nolan, release St. John United Church of Christ from turning to you and depending on you?

PASTOR

I do, with the help of God.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

PASTOR

I do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE MINISTER

On behalf of the Illinois South Conference and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness,

forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

CONGREGATION
Thanks be to God!

PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

Let us pray.

O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Pastor Nolan in worship, in learning, in service. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

“For All That You Have Done”

Insert, On Screen

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Festive March in D”

W. Rebihoff

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our Church Workers for today:

Pastor - Rev. Jim Nolan

Organist - Sharon Banjavcic

Lector – Cami Nolan

Ushers -