

The mission of St. John United Church of Christ is to worship and serve God in our church, community and the world.

January 22, 2017

10:00 AM

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US TO SILENT REVERENCE

PRELUDE "Sing Praise to God" Edward Broughton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song, a song of thanks and praise,
For God has done wondrous deeds, and is great beyond compare!

*SONG OF PRAISE

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" #4/NCH, On Screen

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to God, for the Holy One is steadfast in love and always ready to forgive.

Mothering God, we have chased after foolish things, and spent our strength on vanity; our labor has been in vain. Deliver us from arrogance and forgive our self-concern, that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your dream. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, you are forgiven in Christ, the Lamb who bears our sin. Happy are those who put their trust in God, and delight to do God's will, for God makes our footing sure upon the rock of Christ.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 40
Pgs. 694-695, CEB

*GOSPEL

John 1: 29-42
Pg. 1290, CEB

SERMON

"The Mud Song"

*SONG OF THE DAY

"How Can I Keep from Singing" #476/NCH, 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 **Alan and Jackie Canterbury**. Prayers for healing: **Darleen Bax, Dennis Ford, Russ Hartmann, Ardella Morris**.*

ORGAN RESPONSE

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer" James McGranhan

Invitation

*Doxology

#780/NCH, On Screen

*Prayer of Dedication

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.

*COMMUNION SONG

"Break Thou the Bread of Life"

#321/NCH, On Screen

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

Ushers will bring the elements to worshippers in the pews; please hold each element in reverence until all may partake together.

*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.

*SENDING SONG "Lift High the Cross"

#198/NCH, On Screen

Verses 1, 4 and 5

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Benton Price

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our Church Workers for today:

Pastor - Rev. Jim Nolan

Organist - Mrs. Sharon Banjavcic

Lector – Mary Lou Baum

Ushers - Ginny Ganschinietz, Melinda Stidham

Activities of the church:

Wednesday – Council, 7 p.m.

Jan. 29 – Annual Congregational meeting following worship

Pastor's Office Hours

During the week, Pastor Jim's schedule is as follows:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9 a.m. to noon

1-4 p.m. reserved for visitations and other appointments

Tuesday - Pastor's sermon-writing day at home

Thursday - Pastor's day off