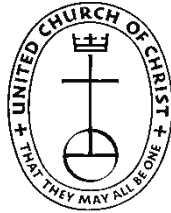


March 19, 2017

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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March 19, 2017

10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Lent

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE

PRELUDE: "Open Our Eyes/Be Thou Our Vision" Robert Cull

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from John 4)

Jesus says to us, "Anyone who drinks from this water will be thirsty again,"

But those who drink of the water Christ give us will never be thirsty.

The water that Christ gives us will become a spring of water,
A spring gushing up to eternal life.

We come before Christ, asking for this living water, so we may never be thirsty again.

Jesus says we will be fed when we do the will of God.

For the fields are ripe for the harvest,

And we are sent forth, entering into the labor of God.

Come, let us worship God, who has called us to this work.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Gather Us In"

On screen

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Patient and ever-faithful God, we come to you this morning confessing that we can be a grumpy and unsatisfied people.

When things are not perfect in our eyes, we murmur and complain, and grumble and doubt.

We lose hope in the people around us and, even worse, we lose hope in you.

**We challenge instead of accept.
We put you to the test rather than trust your caring love.
Forgive our doubts and complaining.
Forgive our loss of hope.
Let your healing, life-giving waters pour over us.
Restore our souls. Amen.**

*MOMENT OF SILENCE

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Now hear the good news: you are God's beloved, and God is pleased with you. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT: Joshua 1: 5-9

*GOSPEL READING Matthew 16: 13-22

SERMON: "Moments of Transition" Mike Stidham

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "In The Bulb There Is a Flower"
#433 NCH

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 **Susan Williams**. Prayers for healing: **Darleen Bax, Barbara Moran, Alan Canterbury, Russ Hartmann, Ardella Morris**.*

PRAYER RESPONSE "Spirit of the Living God" #283 NCH

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

INVITATION:

OFFERTORY "Savior Lead Us" Robert J. Hughes

*DOXOLOGY: # 780

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**Life-giving God,
we offer you ourselves and our resources.
Use us and our gifts,
that we may be water bearers
to a world thirsty for love,
for meaning, for justice, and for hope.
May all your people encounter fullness of life
through the love of Christ, which lives within us.
Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: “We Are Called” on screen

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Royal Banners” James Mansfield

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our Church Workers for today:

Worship leader – Mike Stidham

Organist – Sharon Banjavcic

Lector - Nancy Eisenhauer

Ushers – Jim Eisenhauer, Rich Williams

Activities of the church:

Today - In the community: sacred concert by the Collinsville Chorale today at 3:00 p.m at St. Clare Catholic church in O'Fallon.

Monday - Evening Circle 7 p.m.

Tuesday – Boy Scouts in evening

Wednesday - Dinner/bible study 6 p.m.

Sunday - Pastor Rosemary Captain's first Sunday! Please plan to stay and welcome her at a reception sponsored by the Church Council after worship.