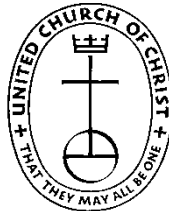


November 12, 2017 – 10:00 am
ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**Second Anniversary of Becoming
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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Fairview Heights, IL

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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: "Change My Heart, O God" Mark Hayes

*UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Come join the circle for Jesus is calling,

MANY: **God calls us into the circle of visions and dreams
where all are welcome and included**

One: Look around and see who's here, look at all the faces

MANY: **God has called us here to celebrate the wideness of
God's community and grace.**

One: Let us worship the God of justice for all times and
places together.

*OPENING HYMN: "**Draw the Circle Wide**" (On Screen)

*RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

One: God we hear your voice calling out to us, reminding us to
do one thing:

MANY: **Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.**

One: As we gather in this place and time open our hearts to the
breadth and width of Your vision for the church.

MANY: **Awaken in us a dream larger than we have dreamed
before; a dream of a place and time where all are
welcome and included.**

One: We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us about the
wideness of your grace. Let us give God our thanks and
praise.

*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.**

A READING FROM PSALMS: **Psalm 78:1-7**
Lay Liturgist (Page 724 in the Pew Bible)

EPISTLE READING: **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
Lay Liturgist (Page 1440 in the Pew Bible)

CHOIR ANTHEM: **“Help Us Accept Each Other”**
John Ness Beck

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON: **Matthew 25:1-13**
Pastor Rosemary (Page 1206 in the Pew Bible)

Here what the spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: **“Hospitality, Stewardship, and Bridesmaids”**

HYMN OF RESPONSE:
#571 “O God of Love, O God of Peace”

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer. Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE: **#812 Three-Fold Amen**
Amen, Amen, A-men.

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: “More Love To Thee” Carol Tornquist

*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 dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life,
of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom
and courage. Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: #391 “In the Midst of New Dimensions”**

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

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:**

ONE: We go from this place to draw the circle wider,

**MANY: May our hearts and love know no borders, may our dreams
be larger than before**

One: We go from here to open the circle to those who call us,

**MANY: Seeking to answer their cry for justice as part of a global
community.**

One: God whose love encompasses the whole world.

MANY: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #236 Halleluja (sung twice)**

Halle, halle, hal-le-luja. Halle, halle, hal-le-luja.

Halle, halle, hal-le-luja. Halleluja, hal-le-lu-ja!

***POSTLUDE: “Come With Rejoicing” R.S. Morrison**

Serving in Christ’s Name:

Ministers – All members of St. John UCC

Participants in Today’s Worship:

Pastor – Rev. Rosemary Captain

Minister of Music – Sharon Banjavcic

Ushers – Jane Cohlmeier and Brenna Cohlmeier