

September 3, 2017 – 10:00 am

13th Sunday After Pentecost

ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**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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Rev. Rosemary Captain

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: "Here I Am to Worship"

Tim Davis

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: **Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26**

One: Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make his deeds known to all people!

**Many: Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord;
Dwell on all his wondrous works!**

One: Give praise to God's holy name!
Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord!

**Many: Pursue the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always!**

One: Remember the wondrous works he has done,
all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared -

**Many: You who are the offspring of Abraham, his servant,
and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

One: Because God remembered his holy promise
to Abraham his servant, and the children of Jacob, his
chosen ones.

**Many: That's how Israel came to Egypt, how Jacob became
an immigrant in the land of Ham.**

One: God made his people very fruitful,
More powerful than their enemies,

**Many: Whose hearts God changed so they hated his people
and dealt shrewdly with his servants.**

One: God sent Moses his servant and the one he chose,
Aaron.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN: # 230

"Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are, and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in your realm. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

***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.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 3:1-15 Lay Liturgist
(Page 68 in the Pew Bible)

EPISTLE READING: Romans 12:9-21 Lay Liturgist
(Page 1382 in the Pew Bible)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 16:12-28**
(Page 1193 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON: “What kind of Messiah are you looking for?”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: #197 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

PASTORAL PRAYER FOLLOWED BY 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: NCH #772

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: "Holy Ground"

Geron Davis

***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: May our offerings be an expression of genuine love that reflects your love for us, O God. We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ's name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of the resources you entrust to us that we may not only contribute to the needs of our church but also devote our lives to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION: Page 16. Selection A
790 Sanctus**

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

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: #455 “I Am Yours, O Lord”**

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

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #812 Amen, Amen, Amen**

POSTLUDE: “With Trumpets & Horns” G. F. Handel

PRAYER LIST: *Today we lift up in prayer this family.*

And prayers for healing:

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

Liturgist - Ginny Ganschinietz

Ushers – Dorothy Ovelgoenner & Sue Williams