

December 2, 2018 – 10:00 am

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. John United Church of Christ

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

Please respond with words in **bold** print.

*Please stand if comfortably able.

NCH is the New Century Hymnal.

- WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP
- LITURGY BY REV THOM SCHUMAN
- CCLI LICENSE #11164431.

PRELUDE: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Mark Hayes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

CHOIR: “Love’s Pure Light” Joel Raney
Congregational part - insert

RESPONSIVE LITANY: Hope for God’s Presence

One: In this season of Advent,
we long for God’s presence.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

One: In this season of Advent,
we search for God’s truth.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

One: In this season of Advent,
we seek God’s guidance.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

One: In this season of Advent,
we remember God’s promise.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Let us pray: This morning we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God’s promises give us reason to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 122**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

***CALL TO CONFESSION:**

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people.

Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption.

Silence is kept

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.**

Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***GLORIA: NCH 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.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING: **Jeremiah 33:14-16**
Lay Liturgist

ANTHEM: **“An Advent Acclamation”**
Thornhill and Nordmeyer

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON: **Luke 21:25-36**
The Spirit continues to speak to the church.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: **“Hope”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH 336**
“Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face”

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 be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: **Verse 3 “Away in a Manger”**
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

Lani Smith

***DOXOLOGY: NCH 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:**

Because of You, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May You use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***HOLY COMMUNION: (On screen)**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 110**

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION: (On screen)**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 812 Three-Fold Amen**

Amen, Amen, A-men.

POSTLUDE: “Jubilate” Stewart Landon