

May 13, 2018 – 10:00 am  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our mission is to worship and serve God  
in our church, community, and the world.



We are an Open and Affirming congregation,  
where all are welcome.

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Pastor Rosemary Captain

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

\*Please stand if comfortably able

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- WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY.

PRELUDE: **“Great is Thy Faithfulness”** Runyon/Raney  
Nancy Eisenhauer – Piano Sharon Banjavcic - Organ

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: We are together today because Christ has claimed us. We are called to be the body of Christ in today’s world.

**MANY: Who are we to make such a claim?**

**Who would see Jesus Christ when they look at us?**

One: It is not our claim that brings us together.  
The church is not our private club.

**MANY: We are not here just for ourselves, for our own needs. We are drawn together by a larger purpose.**

One: We have been called by Christ for a mission.  
The gathered community is sent out into the world.

**MANY: We are here to be equipped for ministry. We have been chosen as apostles of good news.**

\*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 427**

**“God Made From One Blood”**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION: Watch over us, holy God, as we take time to pray, and to meditate on the continuing impact of Easter on our lives. Jesus Christ has become for us the measure of life. He represents to us your gift of love and eternal life. We are a resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to the light. Be known to us here in this hour. Amen.**

**\*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.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Masterpiece” Stacie Pickens  
Craig Patty/Brent Henderson**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**BAPTISM OF TRENTON ALEXANDER PICKENS**

**\*BAPTISM HYMN: NCH 524 “This Little Light of Mine”**

**2<sup>ND</sup> TESTAMENT READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Lay Liturgist**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON: John 17:6-19**

**SERMON: “God’s Mission – Our Mission”**

**PASTORAL PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed 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 769**

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God.  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

**OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES**

**OFFERTORY: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"**

**Mark Hayes**

**\*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:**

**Here, O God, is some of the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are on this earth. May our hearts follow our treasure into growing devotion to your truth and expanded commitment to the unity in love that Jesus sought for all your children. Bless this offering, and increase our joy in giving. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH 327 "Jesus Loves Me"**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 393**

**Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

**POSTLUDE: "Festal Piece" G.F. Handel**

**"Our worship has ended – Now our service begins."**

## **ORIGIN OF MOTHER'S DAY**

Written by Ann L. Hanson

We often forget the radical roots of Mother's Day. Far from being an intimate celebration of family life, Mother's Day had its origin in work for justice and peace.

It all started in the 1850s, when West Virginia women's organizer Ann Reeves Jarvis held Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions and try to lower infant mortality by fighting disease and curbing milk contamination, according to historian Katharine Antolini of West Virginia Wesleyan College. The groups also tended wounded soldiers from both sides during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865.

In the postwar years Jarvis and other women organized Mother's Friendship Day picnics and other events as pacifist strategies to unite former foes. Julia Ward Howe, for one—best known as the composer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"—issued a widely read "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, calling for women to take an active political role in promoting peace.

Around the same time, Jarvis had initiated a Mother's Friendship Day for Union and Confederate loyalists across her state. But it was her daughter Anna who was most responsible for what we call Mother's Day—and who would spend most of her later life fighting the limitation and sentimentality of what it had become.