

May 6, 2018 – 10:00 am  
Sixth 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: Arranged by Mark Hayes

**“They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love”**

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: **Psalm 98:1-4**

One: “Sing to the Lord a new song, because he has done wonderful things! His own strong hand and his own holy arm have won the victory.

**MANY: “The Lord has made his salvation widely known; he has revealed his righteousness in the eyes of all the nations.**

One: “God has remembered his loyal love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; every corner of the earth has seen our God’s salvation.

**MANY: “Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Be happy ! Rejoice out loud! Sing your praises!”**

\*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 349 “I Come With Joy”**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION:

\*RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: What do we hold and treasure most?

**Many: Is it the promises of God?**

One: What captivates our attention?

**Many: Is it the grace of God?**

One: God of mercy and grace:

**Many: We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable. We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness.**

One: Heal us, O God, to make us better healers.

Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders.

Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression. We are yours, loving God.

Help us to live and to know this better.

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

\*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.**

2<sup>ND</sup> TESTAMENT READING: **Lay Liturgist Acts 10:44-48**

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

\*GOSPEL LESSON: **John 15:9-17**

SERMON: **"How to Say Farewell"**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH 332**  
**"As We Gather at Your Table"**

PASTORAL PRAYER ENDING WITH 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 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: "Meditation on "Blessed Assurance"  
Stewart Landon**

**\*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:**

**God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give.  
We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds  
of our concerns. We give these gifts, knowing that  
they will give so much more. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*HOLY COMMUNION:**

**May God be with you. And also with you.  
Lift your hearts. We lift them up to God.  
Let us give thanks to the God we love.  
We freely give God thanks and praise.**

**\*Preface.** It is right and just, beautiful and holy  
that we should, in ceaseless joy give our thanks  
and praise to you, Holy and merciful God, through

Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise with the church that is, was, and shall be forever, we glorify you, joining this unending song:

**\*Sanctus: 790**

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

**Eucharistic Prayer.** Holy are you, Eternal One.  
You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth setting  
light into being  
casting the stars in the sky founding the evolving earth  
And all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom.  
You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures.  
You visit upon the downtrodden with presence, grace,  
and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus, who reached into  
unexpected places, calling women beyond the limits of  
their times equipping men for nurturing love  
welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion,  
The light of the world took bread, broke and gave it to the  
disciples, saying:

“This is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And, in like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks give it to them saying,

“This is the cup of the new covenant [in my blood] poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.”

Life’s greatest feast before us,  
We excitedly proclaim:

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

Dear God, you transform. You transform all that is before you so that at the touch of your grace we are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine. You bring light to all peoples. Light to the nations. Light into our heart. Light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.

Transform, illumine, bless.

Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup  
Into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing,**

**Hold us as your own**

**Renew us as your people**

**For the sake of the world you love.**

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,  
Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit in your glorious creation both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:** Let us pray:  
**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.**  
**We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.**  
**May we bask in this glow**  
**Now and forevermore. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH 506**  
**“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**  
May God bless and keep you  
May God’s face shine through yours.  
And may the glorious, + Triune God  
Protect and keep you  
All the days long. **Amen.**

**\*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: “Surely Goodness and Mercy”**  
Roger C. Wilson

**“Our worship has ended – Now our service begins.”**

