

November 4, 2018 – 10:00 am
24th Sunday after Pentecost

**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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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-3

Pastor 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.
- LITURGY WRITTEN BY THE REV. THOM SCHUMAN

PRELUDE: “I Need Thee Every Hour” Robert Lowery

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: You are welcome in this place,
where God meets us in love.

**MANY: Why are we here? We are here to love God
with all that we have and all that we are.**

One: You are welcome in this place,
where God loves us as children.

**MANY: Why are we here?
We are here to love ourselves
as deeply as God loves us.**

One: Welcome to this place, where God serves us
at the Table of love and grace.

**MANY: Why are we here? We are here to be sent
forth to love others as deeply as
we love God and ourselves.**

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 486 “I Must Tell Jesus”**

***INVITATION TO CONFESSION:** The world teaches us many ways to love, but all are based on selfish desires and needs. God teaches us how to love: completely, uniquely, unconditionally. Let us confess our difficulty to be as loving as God teaches us, as we pray, saying,

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor, when it is linked to the way we love ourselves. And it is difficult to love anyone - even You - more than we love ourselves.

Forgive us, Love Eternal. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

In God's Kingdom, all are loved for who they are, not what they do; in God's Kingdom, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't; in God's Kingdom, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.

Forgiven, loved, sent forth - we are not far from God's Kingdom! Thanks be to God. 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.

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Ruth 1:1-18

Lay Liturgist

PSALM RESPONSE: Psalm 146:1-10 NCH Page 719

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON:

Mark 12:28-34

MESSAGE: "Hope and New Life in Recovery"

Mark Knott, Addiction Counselor

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH 286**

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with Silent Prayer

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 775 "Eagles Wings"**

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES:

OFFERTORY: **"Does Jesus Care?" Stewart Landon**

*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:**

**As we offer our gifts, our hearts, our lives to you,
may we see your kingdom of hope and wonder, of
healing and kindness unfolding in our midst. This we
ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION:**

The invitation: . . .

My beloved sisters and brothers,
may the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

My beloved brothers and sisters,
lift up your hearts.

Our hearts are lifted high to God.

Beloved of God, let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

Thanksgiving is in our hearts, and praise is on our lips.

We will sing praises to you all life long, . . .

Therefore, we join our voices, with the saints of
every time and of every place, singing our praises to
your heart:

***SANCTUS: NCH 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)

Let us pray. We praise you, Holy God, . . .

His life, his words, his death, his resurrection are mysteries we may not understand completely, but which we will proclaim with faith:

**Christ died, loving us more than himself;
Christ rose, loving God with all that he was;
Christ will come again, loving all God's children,
so we might be neighbors forever.**

As we break the Bread of Life . . .

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our grace;
through the Spirit, who is our hope; we honor and
glorify your love for all people in creation,
Great God, our peace and our joy, now and forever.
Amen.

The bread broken, the wine poured. Christ's banquet is set for you. Come. Taste and see.

(Sharing the Elements)

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: NCH 397

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION:**

As you leave this place, go with God.

We will go wherever God goes.

As you depart to serve, go with Christ.

We will not turn back from following Jesus.

As you live the coming days, go with the Spirit.

**God's people will be our people,
and we will share our lives with them.**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Three-fold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

POSTLUDE: "Surely Goodness and Mercy"

Roger C. Wilson