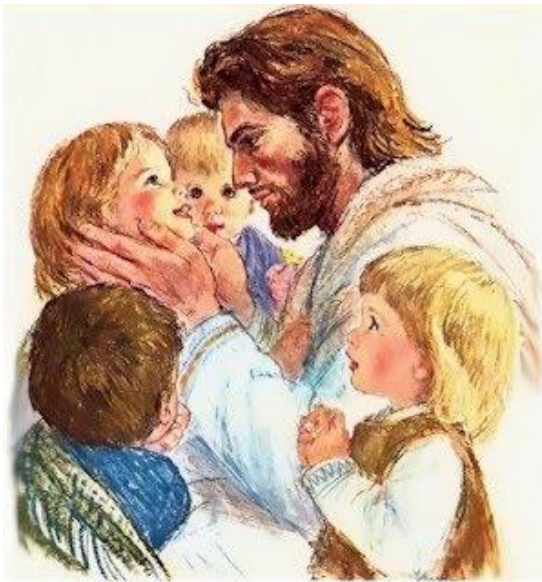


September 23, 2018 – 10:00 am
18th Sunday after Pentecost

**ST. JOHN UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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



Mark 9:36

***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

618-660-8894

gcaptain@charter.net

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 LAVON BAYLER

PRELUDE: **“Walking with the Master” Louise E. Stairs**

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on Psalm 1

One: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. Happy are those who find delight in God’s law.

MANY: God is always nearer than our next breath. We gather to become more aware of that presence.

One: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous. They seek to grow in wisdom and understanding.

MANY: There is always more to discover than we know. God is our teacher and helper and judge.

One: Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve. Learn to be peaceable, gentle, and merciful.

MANY: We seek to do good and not harm all our days. We would open our hands to the poor and needy.

*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 305 “You Servants of God”**

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

You watch over us, O God, and show us the way to prosper in life, not so much in things as in relationships that contribute to our wholeness and well-being.

Thank you for meeting us here and helping us to deal with our selfish ambition, disorder, and conflicts. We submit ourselves to you for instruction. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you, voicing our doubts as well as our faith, our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation. 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.

EPISTLE READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Lay Liturgist

PSALM RESPONSE: Psalm 1, NCH Page 621

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Thy Word"

Michael W. Smith & Amy Grant

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 9:30-37**

SERMON: "Faith Formation Never Ends"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Seek Ye First"**
(insert and on screen)

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with Silent Prayer

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 765 "Alleluia"

I will praise you, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I will praise you, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: "A Light Unto My Path" Bertha R. Frick

***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:**

We who have spent much on our own pleasures are pleased to share that others may obtain the necessities of body and spirit. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. Bless each gift and giver. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 539**

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 75 Verse 1**

Lord, make me more holy.

Lord, make me more holy.

Lord, make me more holy, until we meet again.

Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

POSTLUDE: "Finale" C. L. Koch