

April 28, 2019 – 10:00 am

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Loving Hands of God

**ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**

10207 Lincoln Trail
Fairview Heights, IL Telephone 397-6323
e-mail: stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com
Website: www.stjohnfairview.org
Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN REV VIVIAN M. LUCAS
- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.
- *PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: “He Lives” Stewart Landon

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: God’s strong and loving hands are outstretched to all Creation.

All: **Let the world stretch forth and grasp God’s hands with joy.**

One: God’s open hands are as the gate of righteousness.

All: **Let us enter in to God’s abundant life and give thanks.**

One: In God’s hands are new life, strength, and salvation.

All: **Let us be thankful and sing unto our God with gladness.**

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 257 “Alleluia! Gracious Jesus”**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and to prevail in the power of love. We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together into a deeper place of peace.

Our week has left worries, answerless questions, blatant injustices, and unexpected disappointments.

We are weary.

Come, O Risen Christ and receive our burdens as we empty our cares into your loving hands.

Extend to us your joy.

Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life! Pour into us the freshness of your new life; for you are our strength and our might. How wonderful you are for your loving-kindness toward us.

Amen! Alleluia!

***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 READING: Acts 5:27-32 Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 150 Page 723

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8 Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON:

***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.)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father 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 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 you ear to us. And grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

The bounty of God's grace has blessed us in so many ways. God's love was manifested in the ultimate gift of Jesus, who is the Christ. Let us demonstrate our love through the sharing of our tokens of time, talent, and finances that God may be glorified.

OFFERTORY: "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" 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:

**From our hearts and from our hands,
we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you,**

O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen! Alleluia!

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 253 “Yours is the Glory”**

BENEDICTION: **Please take the hand of the person next to you.

By the power of your Spirit, O God, imbue us with the power of the Risen Christ’s wounded hands.

May that power make us one in You.

May that unity cause us to love as mightily as You.

May your love move us to use our hands as You do— to do works of care and justice for your beloved Earth and all its people— works that heal, free, plant, hug, write, show, speak, and grow.

Give us grace and strength for abundant life!

For this is the day that God as made, let us go forth, rejoice, and be glad in it!

Amen! Alleluia!

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

Amen, Amen, Amen

***POSTLUDE: “With Sounding Brass” Chester Nordman**