

April 1, 2019 – 10:00 am

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



“SALVATION AS COMMUNION”

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

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN REV THOM SHULMAN
- 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: **“Meditation on Songs of the Cross” R. J. Hughes**

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: We come to this place because we want to
know God,

**Many: who helps us set aside the past,
to walk the path to new life.**

One: We come in these moments
because we want to know Jesus,

**Many: who anoints us with the resurrection,
who shares our lives with us.**

One: We come with these people
because we want to know the Spirit,

**Many: who shapes us for life with God,
so we may praise God forever!**

*OPENING HYMN: **“Knowing You”**

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

*UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain
about your generous ways, rather than living in your
grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which
justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we see a**

perceived golden past, and so close our eyes to the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.

Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem. (Silence)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 126 Page 707

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 3:4b-14 Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: John 12:1-8**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: "Salvation as Communion"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 349 "I Come With Joy"**

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.**

OFFERTORY: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" Lani Smith

***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:**

If we want to know you, Generous God, we must see you in those all around us. If we want to serve you, we

must give up that which is most important to us, even our material resources, so that blessings of hope and life might be offered to the needy, the lonely, the hungry all around us. Receive our gifts, we pray, so that others might be transformed even as we are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*HOLY COMMUNION: (On Screen)

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**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 383**

"Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls"

*BENEDICTION:

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

*POSTLUDE: **"Paean" George Blake**