July 14, 2019 – 10:00 am

5th Sunday After Pentecost

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

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **"Divine Comfort" Robert J. Hughes**

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God calls together a divine council to render judgment. God holds a plum line to measure our faithfulness.

MANY: Who can stand before the judgments of God? How shall we know what God expects of us?

One: Lift up your prayers for God's mercy. Earnestly seek to know the ways of truth and salvation.

MANY: Can we distinguish faithfulness from popular success? What must we do to inherit eternal life?

One: God's judgment comes to all nations of the earth. God's covenant with us involves care for all people.

MANY: Will God deliver us from the hands of the wicked? Will God put an end to wanton treachery?

*OPENING HYMN**: NCH 575 "O For a World"**

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:
Almighty God, we tremble with the knowledge that you know all our thoughts and deeds and judge them by your perfect will. Yet we are bold to protest the evil around us that seems to go unpunished. So many innocent and good people die randomly or suffer cruelly. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? O God, we know this is really your question for us. Help us to take seriously these

moments of encounter with you, knowing we can trust you to be just. 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: **Amos 7:7-17 Lay Liturgist**

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: **Psalm 82: 1-8 Page 674**

EPISTLE READING: **Colossians 1:1-14   Lay Liturgist**

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

READER'S THEATER FOR THE GOSPEL READING:
Luke 10:25-37 "The Parable of the Good Samaritan"
Characters: Narrator; Hannah; Aaron (a priest);
             Jacob (a Levite); Samuel (a Samaritan)
                    Written by Maran C. Tirabassi

SERMON: **"It's All About Love"**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH 499 "When We Are Living"**

*UNISON READING OF THE UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH:
             NCH 885   (On Screen)

PASTORAL 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 774**
Shepherd, lead, lead me in your righteousness,
Make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, God, you God only,
to make me to lie down in safety.

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERTORY: **"More Love To Thee" David J. Hegarty**

*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:
May these gifts and our lives bear fruit in many good works, increasing among all people knowledge of God, patience and endurance, wisdom and understanding, love and joy. We would act with compassion toward one another and toward neighbors near and far. Thankful for the mercy you have shown us, we pledge ourselves and these offerings to extend mercy to all. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: **NCH 588**
             "Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

*BENEDICTION: Glory to the Creator, who give us life!
Glory to Christ, the servant of love!
Glory to the Spirit, who empowers us
forward!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: **TUNE: "Amazing Grace"**
The love of God, with peace and joy,
Will each of us attend,
And guide our ways through coming days,
until we meet again. *(Written by N.S. Thistle)*

*POSTLUDE: **"Postlude in C"   George Blake**