

June 2, 2019 – 10:00 am

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



JOHN 17:21b “I pray they will be one.”

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

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN BY REV LEVON BAYLER
- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.
- SCRIPTURE TEXTS FROM THE COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE.
- *PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Rob Roy Perry**

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: The grace of Jesus Christ be with all the saints!
We have gathered in that grace to worship God.

MANY: Rejoice in God and give thanks to God’s holy name. Let all heaven and earth behold God’s glory.

One: God is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. All creation is subject to God’s rule and reign.

MANY: We bring our prayers and praise to God most high, We lift our voices in hymns of celebration.

One: Come, all who hunger, all who thirst;
Be nourished and renewed in this time of worship.

MANY: We bring joys and sorrows, fullness and needs. We come with successes and failures; we come seeking.

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

We come seeking a presence that shakes foundations and helps us build new ones. We come with all our wounds, asking for healing. We come, remembering our baptism and wanting to claim the difference that makes in our lives. We come through the shadowy clouds of our unbelief, seeking the brightness of your glory, O God. We want a faith to sustain us through times of trial and testing. Be powerfully present with us, gracious Spirit. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 597**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

***CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We who have fashioned idols to occupy our time and energy, are invited to examine our priorities before God, who expects to be first in our lives. We who have used others for our own pleasure and gain are summoned before our Creator, who calls us to treat all our brothers and sister with the love of Jesus Christ. Friends, we have much to confess.

***UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Hear our individual confessions, O God, as we recall the ways we ignore you every day. Listen to our regrets over the abuse we have heaped on others by our words, actions, or neglect. We join together in asking forgiveness for the ways our church inflicts injury on members of the household of faith while excluding many who differ from us. We live by our own devices rather than taking risks to follow where Christ might lead us. Deliver us, O God, from empty forms to receive the fullness of your grace and the power to life as you intend.

Silence is observed

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS;**

Rejoice, O righteous ones, and give thanks to God's holy name. You are forgiven, saved from the wrath of one before whom mountains melt and the earth trembles. Through Christ, God's forgiving love is poured out on all who earnestly seek to be changed. We are drawn into a unity that transcends our differences and a faithfulness beyond our ability to achieve. Praise God!

***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 16:16-34 Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 97 Pages 685-686

**SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
Lay Liturgist**

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: John 17:20-26**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “Commencement as Jesus Prays for All of Us”

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: “Fairest Lord Jesus”**

(Words 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 775

And God will raise you up upon 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.**

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERTORY: "My Faith Is Firmly Found" J.S. Bach

***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: With joy and gladness we dedicate our gifts to the service of Jesus Christ. May the abused find solace and courage; abusers be led to new awareness, sensitivity, and change; prisoners know release from bondage; and all humankind be led to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer ourselves with these gifts. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION: (On Screen)**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the bread of life that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love, discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants in the world. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: **NCH 391**

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION:

One: Believers, you have been endowed with the gospel. Go out, with unity of spirit, to share good news.

MANY: We are awed and amazed at God’s gifts to us.

With fear and trembling, we dare to represent God.

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, take love to the world.

With the spirit of truth, offer peace to the nations.

MANY: We seek to live in peace with our neighbors.

We offer our best selves to proclaim love for all.

One: Invite the thirsty to receive the water of life.

The grace of Jesus Christ be with all the saints.

MANY: We have received abounding grace. With joy and thanksgiving, we pass it on. Amen. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: **NCH 812 Three-fold Amen**

“Amen, Amen, Amen”

*POSTLUDE: **“Echo Fanfare” Lani Smith**