

March 31, 2019 – 10:00 am

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**



### **“RETURN FROM SELF-IMPOSED EXILE”**

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

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN REV DR CARI JACKSON
- 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: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Stewart Landon**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

*(Based on today’s scripture texts)*

**One:** Be glad in our GOD and rejoice, O righteous ones.

Shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**All:** **Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**  
**Therefore, we worship our God, and rejoice.**

**One:** In Christ, we become as a new creation.  
 Everything old has passed away.  
 See how God makes things new.

**All:** **Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven and whose lives become new.**  
**Through our worship, we praise God who makes us new. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 202**

**“O God, How We Have Wandered”**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**O God, with gladness and expectation, we gather in this space today. For you are the one who makes all things new. You are the one who satisfies our hunger and restores our soul. In this holy space, help us, your daughters and sons, to know that you always love us. Through our worship today, help us to know that if we stray away from you, you are always ready to receive us with open arms.**

**Prepare our hearts as we worship you to welcome and embrace all of your children as you do us. With gladness and expectation, we pray, in Jesus' name.**

**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: Joshua 5:9-12 Lay Liturgist**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 32 Page 642**

**EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-21 Lay Liturgist**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SERMON: "Salvation as Return from Exile"**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 449 "Softly and Tenderly"**

**DEDICATION OF HYGIENE KITS TO PERU:**

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: "The Hands of Jesus" Roger C. Wilson

\*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:

**Thank you, O God, for loving us and laboring with us, as we seek you and as we help others in their seeking. Bless these offerings which we return to you, that in our seeking and our serving, we may help others to feel the embrace of your and our wide welcome.**

**Guide us in your wisdom and love that we may use these gifts to manifest your righteousness in the world in all that we do. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH 197 “Near the Cross”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 82**

**Go my children, with my blessing, never alone;  
Waking, sleeping I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river,  
I have made you mine forever,  
Go my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

**\*POSTLUDE: “Festive March in D” W. Rebikoff**