

May 19, 2019 – 10:00 am

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**“THE HUMAN ONE HAS BEEN
GLORIFIED” JOHN 13:31B**

**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 ANDREW NAGY-BENSON
- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.

- *PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: **“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”** Mark Hayes

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
(G.M. Hopkins)

MANY: Praise God!

One: The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects. *(Thomas Berry)*

MANY: Praise God from the heavens!

One: All creation is a song of praise to God.
(Hildegard of Bingen)

MANY: Praise God from the earth.

One: The Earth is a sparkling blue and white jewel laced with slowly swirling veils of white, like a pearl in a thick sea of black mystery.
(Edgard Mitchell)

MANY: Praise God from the deepest sea.

One: Great Spirit, give me strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is. *(Black Elk)*

MANY: Praise God, men and women, young and old.

One: Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. *(Rachel Carson)*

MANY: Praise God!

*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 17**

“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing” Verses 1-4 only

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

Gracious God, yours is the gift of creation, the rebirth of spring. Yours is the grace that makes all things new. Yours is the Word that speaks a spring of water to slake our thirst. Open our minds to the mind of Christ. Open our lips, and we will sing ALLELUIA with sun and moon, with mountain and hill, with all creatures of land and sea. Together we will sing awe to your splendor. 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 READING: Acts 11:1-18 Lay Liturgist

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6 Lay Liturgist

Anthem: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" Mark Hayes

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: John 13:31-35**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 543 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" Verses 1-4 Only**

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 773

**Remember me, remember me,
O Jesus, remember me.**

INVITATION TO SHARE: It has been said that gratitude follows grace, like thunder follows lightening. In response to God's gifts of unconditional love and on-going creation, we offer now our hearts, minds, souls and strength to the One from whom all blessings flow.

OFFERTORY: "More Love to Thee" Carol Tornquist

***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:**

Gracious God, you offer us abundant life. We offer you thanks and praise. You sow in us the gift of giving. We dedicate these first fruits to you. Your goodness abounds, your provision is sure. To you we offer these gifts of gratitude; to you we rededicate our loves and lives. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 307**

“Glorious Things of You are Spoken”

***BENEDICTION: God, ground us and grow us in love.**

Love for the earth and the world.

Love for our neighbor and one another.

Love for you, the author of love.

Amen.

***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: “With Trumpets and Horns” G. F. Handel**