

September 15, 2019 – 10:00 am
14th Sunday After Pentecost



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. LAVON 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: **“With Prayerful Heart”** Bertha R. Frick

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God looks on humankind to see if any are wise.
Who is seeking after God above all else?

**MANY: We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth;
We reach out to be strengthened for service.**

One: The winds of God blow among us to winnow
and cleanse. They sweep through our midst in
judgment.

**MANY: Have mercy on us, O God, and wash away our
sin. Do not let your wrath burn against us.**

One: Remember your promises to us, O God.
Create in us a clean hearts and renewed spirits.

**MANY: We seek to know you and to grow in
understanding. Confront us here and light our
way out of the void.**

*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 459**

“Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing”

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

**Hear our cries, O God, for we recognize our need for
your mercy. We are fearful to encounter you, yet we
cannot live without you. We are like lost sheep who
have wandered away from the best we know and
cannot find our way back. We want you to find us, but
we fear your punishment. Come, Good Shepherd, to
rescue us from ourselves. 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: Jeremiah 4:11-12. 22-28
Lay Liturgist**

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 14 Pages 626

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 12:18-29 Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-10**

**This is the Word of God. It is true and can be trusted.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON: "Search, Find, Celebrate"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 252**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

PASTORAL PRAYER:

(Beginning with 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 772

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
God alone fills us.**

OFFERTORY: "Shepherd of Love" John W. Peterson

***DOXOLOGY: NCH 780 (DIFFERENT WORDS)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Because we have
been blessed by you, O God, we are delighted to share.
Because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty,
we search for ways to help them. Thank you for
showing us the way of mercy and patient example, the
way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of
faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our
offerings, we pray. Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 12**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

***BENEDICTION:**

**God is a freeing, uplifting presence in our lives.
God's transforming power is working among us.
The Word of God empowers us to speak and act.
Go with God to love and serve the world.**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: TUNE: "Amazing Grace"**

Depart in peace to do God's will;

Walk ever in the light,

For Christ is with you ever more,

To guide you day and night. *(Written by Ruth Duck)*

***POSTLUDE: "Surely Goodness and Mercy"**

Roger C. Wilson