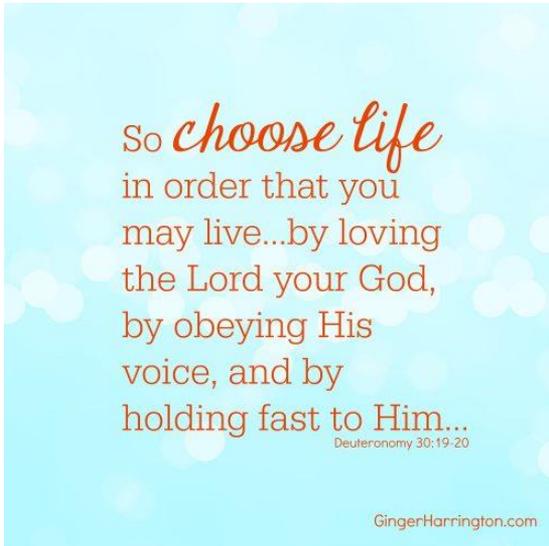


February 16, 2020 – 10:00 am
Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany



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

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Fairview Heights, IL Telephone 397-6323
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Rev. Rosemary Captain

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** arr. Prim

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Happy are those who seek God with their whole heart. Their eyes are fixed on all that God commands.

MANY: We have come to reflect together on God's law. It is hard to hear, in other places, what God expects.

One: Ready yourselves to receive all that God supplies. Attune your hearts to God's promises and warnings.

MANY: We expect to be challenged as well as encouraged. We know that our ways are not God's ways.

One: God gives us choices that result in life or death. We can obey or reject the way of life God intends for us.

MANY: We seek to know and follow the way of life. We seek to know and follow the way of life. We want to live according to promises we have made.

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 73 "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"**

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

We come to you, gracious God, as people of the flesh whose spirits are under-developed and undisciplined. We make decisions without giving consideration to your will for us. We pursue desires that divert our attention away from your call to us.

We make gods of our possessions, our work, our hobbies, even our families. We need to experience your presence and power to bring us to obedience. Make yourself known to us, we pray. 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: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 119:1-8 Page 701

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:21-37**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: "Choose Life with God"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 503**

"O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL: (On Screen)

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with silent, personal prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: NCH 775

**And God will raise you up on 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: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" arr. Bock

***DOXOLOGY: NCH 780**

**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:**

Faithful God, we give in gratitude for your abundant gifts to us. As we offer our tokens of thanks today, we hear you sending us out to mend broken relationships. Our offering is not a substitute for our own engagement in your reconciling work. Go with us to help us as we accept the assignments you give us. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 388**

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING:**

One: Go out as people confronted by the living God.
Dare to be reconcilers, recognizing your own
need.

**MANY: God sends us out to mend broken relations.
May we do no wrong, and walk in God's ways.**

One: Choose life, by loving and obeying God.
Seek daily to partake of spiritual food.

**MANY: We will study to know what God expects of us.
May we learn and keep God's righteous
ordinances.**

One: God will bless those who walk in Christ's way.
Beloved, you will be strengthened to keep your
vows.

**MANY: We will praise God with upright hearts.
May our ways become steadfast in doing
good.**

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

***POSTLUDE: "I Just Feel Like Something Good
is About to Happen" Wm. Gaither**