

February 2, 2020 – 10:00 am
Fourth Sunday After the
Epiphany



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

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **“Be Thou My Vision”** Edward Broughton

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Jesus, Teacher, your teaching surprises us!

MANY: Not the world’s wisdom, but God’s.

One: You move us with sorrow for the sorrow of the world

MANY: And make us strong through our tears.

One: You offer us humility to admit our failures

MANY: And plant seeds of hope in the ashes.

One: You make us hungry for justice

MANY: And give us food that lasts.

One: You invite us to practice what we preach

MANY: And offer joy in that challenge.

One: You support us in standing firm for truth, even when it costs

MANY: And promise the truth will make us free.

*OPENING PRAYER:

God of our lives, to your Beloved Child:

you are always turning the world upside down,

calling us to follow you into new ventures, new

challenges, new ways to care, new ways to touch the

hearts of all. When we get tired, or feel disappointed,

remind us that you can bring change and hope out of the

most difficult situations, so that we may do justice, love

kindness and walk humbly with you always.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 383**

“Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls”

***RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

One: The world's wisdom surrounds us:

Left side: Look after number one...

Right side: Get them before they get you...

Left side: Better be safe than sorry...

Right side: What's someone else's problems got to do with me...?

Left side: Only the strong survive...

Right side: Money makes the world go 'round...

Left side: Revenge is sweet...

Right side: Avoid pain at all costs...

One: May God forgive us when we, as Christ's own people, believe these words to be life-giving when Jesus has shown us a better way. (Silent personal confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** Blessed are those who recognize the wisdom of God, and strive to shape their lives around its truth. In Christ God forgives us and restores us to the way of trust and mercy.

Thanks be to God. 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: Micah 6:1-8 Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 15 Page 627

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12**

This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen

SERMON: "Jesus, Teaching Wisdom"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 332 "As We Gather"**

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: **"We Are Called"** David Haas

***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:**

**Liberator Christ, you went to the top of a mountain,
and taught a sacred word about the meek and the grief**

stricken, about the lost and the lonely. Come to this place now, and by these gifts help us to see the world not as it is, but as it could be, that we may become good news to all. Amen.

***HOLY COMMUNION: NCH Page 5 (ON SCREEN)**

INVITATION: NCH 787

**This is the joyful feast of the people of God.
Men and women, youth and children,
Come from the east and the west,
From the north and the south,
And gather about Christ's table.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN:**

NCH 454 "Lord, I Want to be a Christian"

***BENEDICTION:**

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

***POSTLUDE: "Alla Marcia" Stephen Otis**



PRAYER LIST: *Today we lift up in prayer* Janice Petroff.

And prayers for healing: the Petroff Family, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Eric White, Lori Riess, Charles Chamberlin, Donna Isselhard, Mitch Nallie, Becky Ballard, Candy Pearce, Greg Talley, Carol Meyer, Leah Williams, Pat Holtgrave, Jane Riess, DeAnne Weiss, Rich Schmitt, Les Sattery, Cherie Klostermann, Ardella Morris, Phillip McLaurin, Tyler Underwood

Prayer list for

Feb 2 - Feb 8, 2020

Churches & Pastors

- Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole
- Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Sandee) Kershner

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Libby and Jane Feagans-King, Springfield, IL

PRAYERS during his deployment, AIC Gabriel Alvarez.

Shut-ins: Darleen Bax, Terry Kissel, Ardella Morris, Alice Stidham

Participants in Today's Worship:

Pastor – Rev. Rosemary Captain

Minister of Music – Sharon Banjavcic

Choir Director – Nancy Eisenhauer

Liturgist – Eileen Gammon

Ushers – Urban & Mary Lou Baum

Activities of the church:

Sunday - Adult Sunday school 8:30 a.m. every Sunday.
Join us for refreshments after worship.