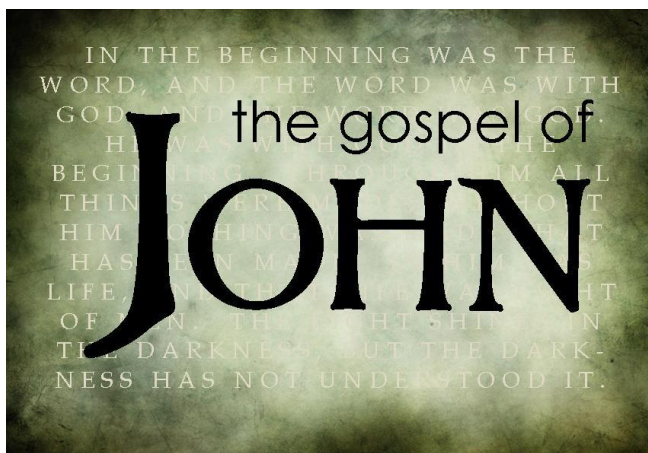


January 5, 2020 – 10:00 am
Second Sunday after Christmas



“In the beginning was the Word. . .”

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

10207 Lincoln Trail
Fairview Heights, IL Telephone 397-6323
e-mail: stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com
Website: www.stjohnfairview.org

Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- 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

GUEST MINISTER – REV. STEPHEN STARK

St. John serving as the neutral pulpit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **“Shine, Jesus, Shine” Graham Kenrick**

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: O God our Guide and Helper, we come to
worship you!

**All: You stay beside us as we journey through
life.**

Leader: O God our Just and Holy One, we come to
thank you!

**All: You lead us in your path of justice and
peace.**

Leader: O God, our Trustworthy Leader, we come to
praise you!

**All: We know we can always rely on your
promises. O God, we gather to worship,
praise and thank you. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 304**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Merciful God, holy Friend, you have promised to all
who turn to you with honest repentance, certain
forgiveness and the life everlasting. We admit we have
been taken in by glitz and glamour while neglecting the
truths that come in common places and through
humble people. We listen to those who pander to our**

prejudices and allow us to remain in our own personal comfort zone. Precious God deliver us and forgive our sins which are many. Fulfil your promise in us today, we humbly pray. Through Christ Jesus our Redeemer, Amen!

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

***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.

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL: Rev. Stark

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14
Lay Liturgist**

READING OF PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14: Rev. Stark

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 1:3-14 Lay Liturgist

***GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-9, 10-18 Rev. Stark**
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God. Amen

**SERMON: "The Reality of Christ In Christmas"
Rev. Stark**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 531
"God Speak to Me, That I May Speak"**

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 472 First Verse

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm,
Through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERTORY: "Jesus the Light of the World" Elderkin

***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:**

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

***MINISTRY OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

***SANCTUS: NCH 790**

Holy, Holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest. (Be seated. Service Continues).**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Rev. Stark
For what you have given us, God, thank you. For what
you call us to, God, thank you. For filling us again,
thank you! Help us to be, all that you know we can be.
In Christ’s name, in your love, we ask it. Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 436 First three verses.
“God of Grace and God of Glory”**

***BENEDICTION AND COMMISSION: Rev. Stark**

***POSTLUDE: “Lift Up Your Songs of Praise”
Camila Saint-Saens**