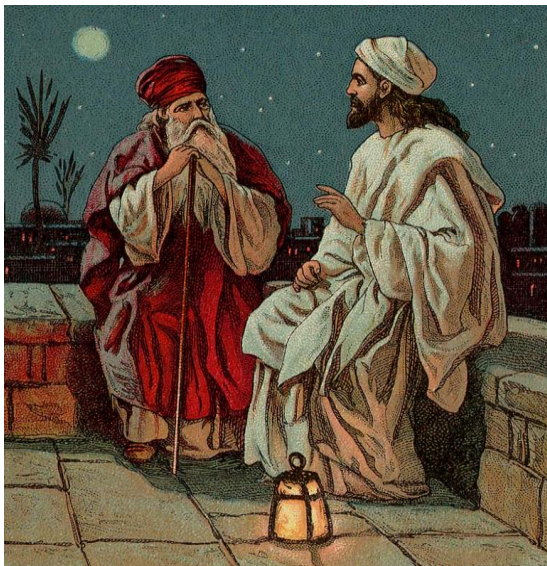


March 8, 2020 – 10:00 am



Pharisee Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night

**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
- LITURGY BY REV MICHELLE HUGHES
- SCRIPTURE TEXTS FROM THE COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE.
- *PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

GUEST WORSHIP LEADER – ANGIE HAUSMANN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”** Brian Doerksen

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

(Genesis 12: 1-4a; John 3: 1-17)

One: We are in the presence of God. Leave the places you have known and walk with God. Leave behind thoughts of limitation and imagine.

Many: But we are secure where we are.

One: Ahh, but New ways of being in this world is possible for each of us.

Many: Can't God bless us where we are, and as we are?

One: If you trust enough to move from the places you have known, and question the systems around us, you will be blessed. God is our light and our salvation.

Many: Lord, we open ourselves to you. Direct our paths and open our hearts and minds.

One: In this place, in every place,

Many: for this time, for all time.

All: Let us worship our God.

*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 6**

“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

O God our Creator, your kindness has given us a new morning. Help us to leave yesterday, not be anxious about tomorrow, and appreciate the unique gift of

today. Open us to the movement of your Holy Spirit that we may desire to bring new order, new possibility, and new hope in this land, and new life in the depths of our being. 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: **Genesis 12:1-4**

Lay Liturgist

EPISTLE READING: **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17** Lay Liturgist

ANTHEM: **St. John Choir and Friends**

“Psalm 121” Composed by Heather Sorenson

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17**

This is the Word of God. It is true and can be trusted.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON:

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 25**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with silent, personal prayer.

Ending with the Lord’s 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 773 “Remember Me”

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

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERTORY: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” Lani Smith

***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:**

May these gifts indicate our gratitude for our many blessings. May the spiritual nourishment we receive today strengthen us for continued service. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 319**

“Sing Them Over Again to Me”

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 75 Verse 1**

**Lord, make me more holy, Lord, make me more holy.
Lord, make me more holy, until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy until we meet again.**

***POSTLUDE: “Joy” James Mansfield**