

January 1, 2017

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our mission is to worship and serve God in our church,
community and the world.



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January 1, 2017

10:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS RING IN CELEBRATION

PRELUDE

“Coventry Carol”

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the New Day that the Lord has made.

We will be glad and rejoice in it.

This is the New Year that the Lord has begun.

We will glad and rejoice in it.

The Lord's great love and compassions never fail. They are new
every morning.

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord our God.

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to those who seek
him.

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord our God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

”Arise, Your Light Has Come”

#164/NCH, On Screen

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, let us confess together before God:

**Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your
children. We confess we have not loved you as we should. We
have not participated fully in your purpose and plans; we grow
weary and give up when the way is hard.**

**Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our
time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust
in you.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and
blood. Amen.**

***MOMENT OF SILENCE**

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners. He is our savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that saves us. Declare with me the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we *are* forgiven!

OLD TESTAMENT

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13
Pgs. 818-819, CEB

GOSPEL

Matthew 2: 13-23
Pg. 1170-1171, CEB

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“Go Back and Get It”

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult”

#172/NCH, On Screen

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*Each week we pray for a family or individual from our Congregation in addition to those on our prayer list. Today we lift up **Becky Ballard**. Prayers for healing: **Russ Hartmann, Louise Cohlmeier, Darleen Bax, Dennis Ford, Barbara Moran, Verna Koch, Alan Canterbury, Ardella Morris, Larry Cates (Pat Bregen)**.*

ORGAN RESPONSE

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

Invitation

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Bill Wolaver

*Doxology

#780/NCH, On Screen

*Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people. For your convenience, offering plates have been placed at the end of the front pews.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You call all people to follow your paths of justice and peace, beating their swords into plowshares. In light of your Holy Word, we look for the day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, or learn war anymore.

Therefore, with the entire company of heaven, and with your people on earth who live in hope, we praise you and join the never-ending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

On the night in which he was handed over, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

Later on, when supper was over, Jesus took the cup and gave thanks again, saying: *Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for the many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.*

Therefore, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, God of Creation, we give ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for the world, as we declare:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Let the bread we break be a true fellowship in the body of Christ.

Let the cup we share

Be a true participation in the new covenant in his blood.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray.

May we be as living loaves, kneaded and shaped by the hands of God.

May we be as wine of the Spirit, poured out so others might know joy.

Love be the leaven within.

Love be the flavor of thought and word and deed.

Peace be among us.

Please be within us.

Peace surround all on God's journey of wholeness and inclusion.

Amen.

***HYMN OF SENDING** "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"
#181/NCH, On Screen

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Two German Carols" Roger C. Wilson

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our Church Workers for today:

Pastor - Rev. Jim Nolan

Organist – Sharon Banjavcic

Lector – Jan Miller

Ushers – Jan & Tom Miller

Activities of the church:

Today – Refreshments in L Room after worship.

Wednesday – Church Council 7 p.m.

Saturday – “Being Church” 10 a.m. -11 a.m.

Pastor’s Office Hours

During the week, Pastor Jim’s schedule is as follows:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9 a.m. to noon

1-4 p.m. reserved for visitations and other appointments

Tuesday - Pastor’s sermon-writing day at home

Thursday - Pastor’s day off

Contact Pastor Jim at 618-616-0198 or church office 397-6323.