

July 23, 2017 – 10:00 am
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**An Open and Affirming congregation
where all are welcome**

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



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Please respond with words in **bold print**.

*Please stand if comfortably able

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: "Whispering Hope"

Robert J. Hughes

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on Psalm 139

One: God has searched us and knows us.

God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.

Many: God searches out our path and our lying down.

God is acquainted with all our ways.

One: Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it.

God's hand is ever available to guide us.

Many: Such knowledge is a wonder to us.

It is beyond anything we can attain.

One: We cannot escape from God's spirit.

There is nowhere to flee from God's presence.

All: Darkness is as light to our God.

God illuminate the way before us.

*OPENING HYMN: #303 "Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing"

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our thoughts. We gather with eager longing to know you, ever-present God, and to be known by you. We want to live as your beloved children. Assure us in these moments that you hear our prayers, even as your will is revealed to us. Fill our dreams and our waking hours with radiant hope. May every time of encounter move us to awe and fervent worship. Lead us in your way everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA: #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 28:10-19a

Lay Liturgist

(Page 33 in the Pew Bible)

EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:12-25 Lay Liturgist

(Pages 1376-1377 in the Pew Bible)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

(Pages 1187- 1188 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON: **“Stones, Wheat, and Weeds”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE:

#500 “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

PASTORAL PRAYER beginning with silent personal prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it be your name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 #775**

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bare you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: **“The Solid Rock”**

Carol Tornquist

*DOXOLOGY: **# 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

Thank you, God, for the heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors. We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God who have not yet discovered their identity. May all of us grow in righteousness that we might together experience the reality of your realm in our daily lives, here and now and for all eternity. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: #403 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

DURING THE HYMN THE LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED AND CARRIED OUT INTO THE WORLD.

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH # “81”**

(verse one, no refrain)

**God be with you till we meet again.
By good counsel guide, uphold you.
With a shepherd's care enfold you.
God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE: Postlude in C' George Blake

Serving in Christ's Name:

Ministers – All members of St. John UCC

Participants in Today's Worship:

Pastor – Rev. Rosemary Captain

Minister of Music – Sharon Banjavcic

Liturgist - Ginny Ganschinetz

Ushers – Jan and Tom Miller

Activities of the church:

Tuesday - Boy Scouts