

November 19, 2017 – 10:00 am

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

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## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: "God, We Praise You"

Lani Smith

**\*UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God.  
Attune your spirit to the One in whom we dwell.

**MANY: God's love surrounds us here today.  
God calls us to be children of light.**

One: We belong to the day when we have faith.  
We live confidently in the hope of salvation.

**MANY: We seek to be faithful to the best we know.  
We want to invest the talents God gives us.**

One: Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance.  
Doing justice adds to our sense of worth and dignity.

**MANY: We are here to build up one another.  
May our worship encourage each of us today.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #421 "We Gather Together"**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding presence. Awaken our spirits to realities unseen. Expand among us such mutual regard and encouragement as will build up community and lead all of us to live in the light. May faith and love dominate all our relationships as we enter into the joy of serving in the name of Jesus Christ. 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.**

A READING FROM PSALMS:

**Psalm 123**

Lay Liturgist

(Page 766 - 767 in the Pew Bible)

EPISTLE READING:

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Lay Liturgist

(Page 1440 in the Pew Bible)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

\*GOSPEL LESSON:

**Matthew 25:14-30**

Pastor Rosemary

(Page 1206 - 1207 in the Pew Bible)

Hear what the spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to good. Amen.**

SERMON: **“What Kind of God Do We Serve?”**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE:

**#422 “Come, O Thankful People, Come”**

\*UNISON READING OF STATEMENT OF FAITH:

**#885** and On Screen

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Beginning with a time for 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: **#812 Three-Fold Amen**

**Amen, Amen, A-men.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: “Give Thanks”

Henry Smith

**\*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:**

**We offer an accounting of our stewardship in and beyond the offering of this day. Reshape our lives for joyous, responsive participation in work that builds up the body of Christ. Bless us and our offerings. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: “O Give Thanks” (On screen)**

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

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #236 Halleluja (sung twice)**

**Halle, halle, hal-le-luja. Halle, halle, hal-le-luja.  
Halle, halle, hal-le-luja. Halleluja, hal-le-lu-ja!**

**\*POSTLUDE: “Thanks Be To God” Ernest H. Sheppard**

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***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 - Jim Turnbull**

**Ushers – Sue Williams and Rich Williams**