

October 8, 2017 – 10:00 am
18th 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:

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: The God who frees us invites us to worship.
The God of law welcomes our loyal response.

**Many: The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**

One: God is present with us, eager to speak to us.
Our Creator is here to help us and to keep us from sin.

**Many: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.
God's decrees are sure, making wise the simple.**

One: We tremble before God, yet are not afraid.
We are ready to listen to God's word.

**Many: May our awe before God be pure and enduring.
May our thoughts and our words be acceptable
to God.**

***OPENING HYMN: #25 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**O God, our rock and our redeemer, enlighten us today
through the ancient witness of your faithful people. Lead us
to desire the guidance of your word. Remind us of your
ordinances that are true and righteous altogether. May they
shape our living and warn us when we are in error. Work with
us to develop right relationships in our families and with all
your children near and far, we pray in Jesus' name. 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: **Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20**
Lay Liturgist (Pages 90-91 in the Pew Bible)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON: **Matthew 21:33-46**
Pastor Rosemary (Pages 1200-1201 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON: **"The Message Rejected Again"**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **#507 "Jesus, the Very Thought to Me"**

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 #773**
**Remember me, remember me,
O Jesus, remember me.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY:

*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:

**Ruler of all space and time, we want to be faithful
stewards in your vineyard. All that we have is yours. Our
lives are in your hands. Help us to use well all that here
devote to the work of your church. Help us to manage well,
to your honor and glory, all that we retain for ourselves. May**

we know heaven on earth because you hold first place in our priorities and our daily goal is to serve you. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: #172 “Jesus Calls Us”**

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

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #82 (Verse One)**

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;

Waking sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;

In my love’s baptismal river have made you mine forever,

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

***POSTLUDE:**

PRAYER LIST: *Today we lift up in prayer this family.*

And prayers for healing:

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 - Sue Anne Sharp

Ushers – Carol Bulva and Wayne Schlosser