

September 2, 2018 – 10:00 am  
**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**ST. JOHN UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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



"Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate,  
rather the things that come out of a person contaminate  
the person"

**We are an Open and Affirming congregation,  
where all are welcome.**

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-3

Pastor Rosemary Captain

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.

**PRELUDE: “Change My Heart, O God” Mark Hayes**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Come to listen for all God Seeks to teach us.  
God has given us birth by the word of truth.

**MANY: We are drawn to God as to a beloved.  
We leap for joy when we know God’s care.**

One: Every perfect gift comes to us from God.  
God’s image is a part of each one of us.

**MANY: God’s grace has been poured into our lives.  
Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.**

One: Who will dwell on God’s holy hill?  
Those who walk uprightly and speak the truth.

**MANY: We will honor God by honoring our  
neighbors. We will act toward them as we  
wish to be treated.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 44 “Fairest Lord Jesus”**

(Words on screen)

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION:**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**O God, we admit that all is not well with us. We are  
easily angered and slow to forgive. We speak without  
listening and pretend to listen without really hearing.  
Our tongues become weapons rather than instruments**

of healing. We are more critical than helpful toward the poor in our midst. Hidden in our hearts are the attitudes that produce avarice, deceit, and violation of our promises to you and to one another. Turn us around so we can accept your forgiveness and learn to love ourselves as you want us to be, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

**\*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.**

**EPISTLE READING: James 1:17-27 Lay Liturgist**

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Lay Liturgist**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

**SERMON:**

**“What’s More Important – Tradition or Morality?”**

**\*HYMN IN PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION:  
NCH 343 “Jesus Took the Bread”**

**PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with Silent Prayer**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: NCH 775**

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
Bear 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: "Open Our Eyes, Lord" Robert Cull**

**\*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:**

**Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all the  
bounty you entrust to our stewardship, O God of light.  
You have reached into the shadows, where we often  
flee, to rescue us and give us your work to do. Bless  
our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.**

**\*HOLY COMMUNION: NCH Page 6 Selection A  
(On Screen)**

**#790 Holy, Holy, Holy**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our  
Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this  
holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's  
body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the  
good news of your love and that your universal church  
may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN:**

**NCH 454 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”**

**\*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: “Festal Postlude” Chester Nordman**