

September 9, 2018 – 10:00 am  
**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**ST. JOHN UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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



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

10207 Lincoln Trail

Office 397-6323

Fairview Heights, IL

email: [stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com](mailto:stjohnuccfh@wisperhome.com)

Website: [www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)

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: “Jesus Loves Me” David Paxton**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship. Young, and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

**MANY: This is a place where all belong.  
This is a time when all are accountable to God.**

One: The Maker of all seeks our common good.  
The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

**MANY: We are not judges over our sisters and  
brothers. We are called to love our  
neighbors as ourselves.**

One: Come to sin praises and put your trust in God.  
Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ’s name.

**MANY: God is our hope God brings life to our  
hearts. We want to share this hope and joy  
with others.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 31**

**“All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**Author of all mankind, come to lift us up to our full  
humanity as we worship you in this hour. You sur-  
round us on every side and are acquainted with all our**

**ways. You know our shallow motives and our deepest thoughts. You are aware of the distinctions we make and the favoritism we express. Yet you welcome us, not as strangers but as heralds of your reign. We want to worship you and to represent you well. Come among us now with your transforming power. Amen.**

**\*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: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23**

**Lay Liturgist**

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

**“Sharing the Good News”                      NCH 765 “Alleluia”**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:    Mark 7:24-37**

**SERMON:    “Spreading the Good News”**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: (words on screen)  
   “Jesus Loves the Little Children”**

**PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with Silent 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 765 “Alleluia”**  
**You’re my Savior, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
**You’re my Savior, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES**

**OFFERTORY: “Do Lord” Moses Hogan**

**\*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 give because you have been generous to us,**  
**gracious God. We give because we need to give in**  
**order to realize your image within us. May the**  
**ministries of this church meet the needs of our**  
**member, our community, and our world. Help us to**  
**love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen**

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH 359**

**“O God, Who Teaches Us to Live”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 75 Verse 2**

**Lord, make me more holy; Lord, make me more**  
**faithful. Lord, make me more faithful, until we meet**  
**again. Faithful, faithful, faithful until we meet again.**

**POSTLUDE: “Sing and Rejoice” Randolph Johnston**