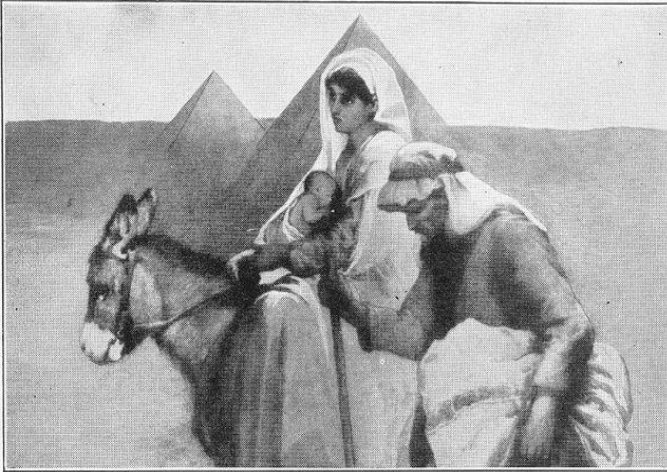


December 29, 2019 – 10:00 am
First Sunday After Christmas



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

10207 Lincoln Trail

Fairview Heights, IL Telephone 397-6323

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT
- LITURGY BY REV LAVON BAYLER
- SCRIPTURE TEXTS FROM THE COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE.
- *PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **“At the Manger”** Eugene McCluskey

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:** Based on Psalm 148

One: Praise God, all who dwell on this earth.
Praise God in the heights and depths of life.

MANY: We will recount the deeds of God.

Surely God has shown us goodness and mercy.

One: Praise God, sun and moon and stars.
Praise God, fire and hail, snow and frost.

MANY: Men and women, young and old, together:

Let us praise and honor our Creator.

One: Let God’s name be praised and exalted.
God’s glory is above heaven and earth.

**MANY: By God’s steadfast love, we are drawn to
worship.**

Our gracious Savior leads us in new ways.

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 126**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**Redeemer of all who put their trust in you, we seek
your presence here. Only our own attitudes can
separate us from you. Re-create us in your own image
so we may be true to your intentions for us and in tune
with your purposes for our life together. In our times
of distress, pour out your pity and your love that we
may know we are not alone. Lift us up and carry us
when our strength fails. Now, in the midst of this
congregation, we would praise you and honor your
name. 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.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 63:7-9 Lay Liturgist

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 2:10-18 Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13-23**

***GOSPEL RESPONSE: Refrain NCH 125**

Glo – ri – a in excelsis Deo, Glo – ri – a in excelsis Deo!

SERMON: “Who is this Refugee?”

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: (Words on screen)**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with silent, personal prayer

**THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed
be your name. Your kingdom come; Your 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 124 Verse 3

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERTORY: **“A German Carol”** Roger C. Wilson

*DOXOLOGY: **NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**Awesome God, when we recount your gracious deeds
and praiseworthy acts, we want to imitate them.
Because of your mercy and favor and the abundance of
your steadfast love, we are moved to respond. Thank
you for the gift of life, for all you have entrusted to us,
for your watchful care over us. It is when we give with
generous hearts that we begin to understand how
much we have been given. Thank you, God. Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: **NCH 154**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*BENEDICTION:

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

**“What Child Is This” Last two lines
“This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!”**

*POSTLUDE: **“Joyful Tidings”** James Moffatt