

March 24, 2019 – 10:00 am

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



**PSALM 63:1 "GOD! MY GOD! IT'S YOU –
I SEARCH FOR YOU!"**

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

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN REV DR, DAVID BAHR

- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.
- *PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: "Cornerstone Medley" Mark Hayes

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

(allusions from Psalm 63 and Isaiah 55)

One: Come into the sanctuary and look around.
Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.
All of us – rich and poor, employed and
unemployed and desperately hanging on.

All: Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.

One: We believe God's steadfast love is better than life,
so let our lips praise God as long as we live.

**All: We also often doubt God's love. We often doubt
that God will really provide when it matters.**

One: But this is what matters today: God said, "Come
all who are thirsty, come to the water, and you
that have no money, come, buy and eat."
All of us – rich and poor, employed and
unemployed and desperately hanging on.

**All: So with faith – both bold and timid – let us
worship God!**

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 23**

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

O God, we are used to being judged by standards we cannot live up to – good looks and perfect families and money for whatever we want.

We know these are false values, but we also want to fit in. Let our hearts be changed in our hour of worship. Teach us, inspire us, convict us that your ways are better than our ways and your thoughts are more useful than our thoughts.

By the example of Christ's life we pray. 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 55:1-9 Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 63 Page 660

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Lay Liturgist

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:1-9**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: "Salvation as Change"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 596 "Rock of Ages"**

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed 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 769

**Hear our prayer. O God. Hear our prayer, O God.
Incline you ear to us. And grant us your peace.**

OFFERTORY: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" Jack Schrader

***DOXOLOGY: NCH 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:**

Generous God, we have received from you more than our share of blessings. We thank you. Now increase and multiply our gifts, we pray, that others may feast of your goodness through our witness. Amen

***SENDING HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
(On screen)**

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 82**

Go my children, with my blessing, never alone;

**Waking, sleeping I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine
forever,
Go my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

***POSTLUDE: "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"
Mark Hayes**