

December 8, 2019 – 10:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent



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

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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: **“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”**

Franklin Ritter

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE:

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Rejoice together, people of God.
Let all the earth praise our Creator.

**Many: We have gathered to honor our God.
In awe and reverence, we seek God’s Word.**

One: Welcome one another as Christ welcomes you.
Let each other know of Christ’s presence.

**Many: Surely Christ has come to change us.
Christ is coming still to redirect us.**

One: This is a time to take delight in the Spirit.
This is the hour to seek knowledge and counsel.

**ALL: We are ready to learn what the Spirit teaches.
We are awakening to the Spirit’s gifts.**

*OPENING HYMN: **NCH 122**

“Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

**Come, Spirit of God, to rest on our community,
embracing the poor, bringing equity to the meek,
turning away all expressions of evil. Come into this
congregation to enliven our worship, to immerse us in
righteousness, to prompt our faithfulness. Rain on us
your hope and joy and peace, filling the whole earth
with your glory. 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 11:1-10 Lay Liturgist

RESPONSIVE READING OF Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

EPISTLE READING: Romans 15:4-13 Lay Liturgist

**DUET: "Canticle of Peace" Joseph Ritter
Nancy Eisenhower and Lew Thomasino**

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12**

***GOSPEL RESPONSE: Refrain NCH 125**

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

SERMON:

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 120**

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

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: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Don Wyrten

***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:**

**What a joy to give! What a delight to join our efforts to
your purposes, amazing God! You inspire us to stand up
for the oppressed and to work for harmony among all
your children. May our offerings spread the knowledge
of your ways across this earth, widening the circle of
inclusion to embrace all your children, in Jesus’ name.
Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 121 “All Earth is Waiting”**

***BENEDICTION:**

***POSTLUDE: “Jubilate” Stewart Landon**