

# **Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

October 4, 2020

## *World Communion Sunday*

*This is the day  
Our God  
has made -  
Let us  
celebrate  
with joy!*



**St. John United Church of Christ**

Bellevue, Kentucky

# Order of Service

## Gathering Music and Lighting the Candles

Mark Behnken, organ

Improvisation on HAMBURG L.M.

## Welcome and Call to Worship

Keith M. Haithcock

This is the day Our God has made –  
let us celebrate with joy! (Psalm 118.24)

## Opening Song

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*Tune: HAMBURG L.M.*

Steve Milloy, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

**When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Christ of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, then, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to Christ’s blood.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

## The Prayer of Jesus

Keith M. Haithcock

**Loving God, in whom is heaven,  
may your name be honored everywhere.**

**May your kin-dom come.**

**May the desire of your heart for the world be done,  
in us, by us and through us.**

**Give us the bread we need for each day.**

**Forgive us.**

**Enable us to forgive others.**

**Keep us from all anxiety and fear.**

**For you reign in the power that comes from love  
which is your glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Scripture

Philippians 3.4b-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

Richard Robbins

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **A Word for Kids**

Sarah & Anthony Palm

### **Sermon**

*“Press On!”*

Keith M. Haithcock

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. vs. 14*

### **Song of Response**

*“Grateful” -Tom Tomaszek*

Stephanie Dalsfoist

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy One,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

## **Holy Communion and Offerings to God**

Keith M. Haithcock

**Invitation to the Table**

**Words of Institution** (1 Cor. 11.23-26)

**Prayer of Confession**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**Words of Assurance**

**Breaking Bread & Sharing the Cup**

*“Still Be My Vision” –Mary McDonald*  
The St. John Ensemble; Maggie Drees, fiddle

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Prayers of the People

Keith M. Haithcock

### Closing Song

“Faith Begins by Letting Go”

Jennie Malone, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

**Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,  
Taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:  
Pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.**

**Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory’s roots alive  
So that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
Not through merit we possess but by God’s great faithfulness.**

**Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
Sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;  
Till we find that common-place ripe with witness to God’s grace.**

### Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

### Parting Music “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” -arr. Cindy Berry

Steve Milloy, piano

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**Cover verse and Call to Worship** from Psalm 118.24 Inclusive Bible © Priests for Equality; **Philippians 3.4b-14** from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, ©1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America; **Opening Song** (#224) from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press; **The Prayer of Jesus**, the prayer that Jesus taught us is found in the Gospels of Matthew (6:9a-13) and Luke (11:2a-4). The words and phrasing of the prayer are not identical in the two gospels, which indicates gospel writers may have known different versions of the prayer or understood it as a model to use in prayer; **Song of Response** by Tom Tomaszek © 2003, published by spiritandsong.com, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213, from *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, The Pilgrim Press, p. 143; **Closing Song** (#684) from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, music: Charles G.ounod, 1872, text: © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.