

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 20, 2020

*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

Improvisation on LANCASHIRE

Mark Behnken, organ

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 “Lead On Eternal Sovereign” (Stanzas 1 & 2) *Tune: LANCASHIRE*

Melissa Stephens, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
Loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.**

The Prayer of Jesus

Keith M. Haithcock

Using Jesus’ prayer as our model, we pray together:

**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 1.21-30 (New Revised Standard Version) Richard Robbins

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

"Live On!"

Keith M. Haithcock

"Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ..." -vs. 27

Song of Response

"Grateful" -Tom Tomaszek

Steve Milloy

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.

Mission Moment

Rev. Dr. Aaron Maurice Saari

St. John United Church of Christ supports the mission congregation of Washington United Church of Christ in Cincinnati through its Mission and Ministry Action Plan (MMAP) and the Pastor's Discretionary Assistance Fund. Washington Church provides food, a free store, clothing, tutoring, and other programs helping those in need. Your dollars at work to share God's love.

Offerings to God

“My Worth Is Not in What I Own (At The Cross)” –*Keith Getty*
Melissa Stephens & Steve Milloy, vocalists

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Thank you for your financial support for your Church’s mission and ministry!

Mail: St. John United Church of Christ 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073

Online: StJohnChurch.net

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Prayers of the People

Keith M. Haithcock

Closing Song

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Jennie Malone, vocal leader; Steve Milloy, piano

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart...

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart...

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart...

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Parting Music

“Ignite” –*Eric Knechtges*

University of Puget Sound Wind Ensemble; Rickey Badua, guest conductor

Thanks to: Linda Schuster, administrative support; Edward Goode, editing and production; musicians, and other worship leaders.

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Cover verse and Call to Worship from Psalm 118.24 Inclusive Bible © Priests for Equality; **Philippians 1.21-30** 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** (#573) and **Closing Song** (#454) 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.