

Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 27, 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

Mark Behnken, organ

Improvisation on AZMON

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

“O for a World”

Tune: AZMON

Jennie Malone, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

**O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relived,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

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 2.1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Richard Robbins

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

"Love On!"

Keith M. Haithcock

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. -vs. 4

Song of Response

"Grateful" -Tom Tomaszek

Saba Smith

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

Neighbors in Need special mission offering video

Send your offering via online or US mail, write *Neighbors in Need* in check memo. See below.

Offerings to God

“Is He Worthy?” –*Andre Peterson & Ben Shive, arr. Heather Sorenson*
The St. John Ensemble; Theo Baldwin

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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

“Hearts of Fire” –*Max Gise*

Listen – Contemplate - Pray

Closing Song

“We Are Your People” (Stanzas 1, 2, 3, & 6)
Steve Milloy, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

**We are your people: Spirit of grace,
You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors of every culture and place.**

**Joined in community, treasured and fed,
May we discover gifts in each other, willing to lead and be led.**

**Rich in diversity, help us to live
Closer than neighbors, open to strangers, able to clash and forgive.**

**Spirit, unite us, make us, by grace,
Willing and ready, Christ’s living body, loving the whole human race.**

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Parting Music

“Since Jesus Came Into My Heart” –*arr. Mark Hayes*
Theo Baldwin & Steve Phillips, piano duet

Thanks to: Linda Schuster, administrative support; Edward Goode, editing and production; ushers, the Re-forming Team, 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 2.1-13** 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** (#575) and **Closing Song** (#309) 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.