

# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

***Sing to God  
a new song,  
for God has done  
marvelous things.***

***Make a joyful noise  
to God, all the earth;  
Break forth into joyous  
song and sing praises.***

***Let the floods  
clap their hands;  
Let the hills sing  
together for joy.***



TOGETHER  
FOR JOY

**St. John United Church of Christ**

Bellevue, Kentucky

# Order of Service

## Welcome to St. John Church

Keith M. Haithcock

## Gathering Music

Mark Behnken, organ

“Come, Christians Join to sing” -*Spanish melody, arr. by Dr. Mark A. Behnken*

## Call to Worship

Genesis 1.1-2.3 (The Inclusive Bible)

Keith M. Haithcock

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep—yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters.

Then God said, “Light: Be!” and light was. God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, “Now, make an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: God called the expanse “Sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!” So it was. God called the dry ground “Earth” and the gathering of the water “Sea.” And God saw that this was good. Then God said, “Earth: produce vegetation—plants that scatter their own seeds, and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its own seed in it!” So it was: And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said, “Now, let there be lights in the expanse of the sky! Separate day from night! Let them mark the signs and seasons, days and years, and serve as luminaries in the sky, shedding light on the earth.” So it was: God made the two great lights, the greater one to illumine the day, and a lesser to illumine the night. And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

God then said, “Waters: swarm with an abundance of living beings! Birds: fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky!” And so it was: God created great sea monsters and all sorts of swimming creatures with which the waters are filled, and all kinds of birds. God saw that this was good and blessed them, saying, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers...” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul—cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: God made all kinds of wild animals, and God saw that this was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.”

Humankind was created as God’s reflection:  
in the divine image God created them;  
female and male, God made them.

God blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth—and be responsible for it! God then told them, “Look, everything that has a living soul in it—I give all the green plants for food.” So it was. God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good—very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. On the seventh day God had finished all the work of creation, and God rested. God blessed the seventh day and called it sacred.

From the small to the great, and from the great to the small, sing to God,  
for God has done marvelous things.

## **Opening Song** “Creator God We Sing (Cantemos al Creador)”

Steve Milloy, vocal leader; Jennie Malone, steel drums; Steve Milloy, piano

Creator God we sing, a hymn of joy we’re making;  
Our grateful love we bring, as the new day’s light is breaking.  
God made the sea and land; the sun and stars came rolling  
From God’s own loving hand, their Creator’s love extolling.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Creator God we sing: Alleluia!

Creator God we sing, your power and wisdom blessing;  
Our hope and wonder bring, admiration now expressing.  
The universe maintains that God in might is dwelling;  
And we, in humble strains, of God’s beauty here are telling.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Creator God we sing: Alleluia!

## Scripture

Genesis 2.4b-24 (The Inclusive Bible)

Cherie Draper

At the time when Our God made the heavens and the earth, there was still no wild bush on the earth nor had any wild plant sprung up, for Our God had not yet sent rain to the earth, and there was no human being to till the soil. Instead, a flow of water would well up from the ground and irrigate the soil.

So Our God fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being.

Our God planted a garden to the east, in Eden—"Land of Pleasure"—and placed in it the earth creature that had been made. Then Our God caused every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, to spring from the soil. In the center of the garden was the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Then Our God took the earth creature and settled it in the garden of Eden so that it might cultivate and care for the land. Our God commanded the earth creature,

"You may eat as much as you like from any of the trees of the garden—  
except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

You must not eat from that tree, for on the day you eat from that tree,  
that is the day you will die—yes, die."

Then Our God said, "It is not good for the earth creature to be alone. I will make a fitting companion for it." So from the soil Our God formed all the various wild beasts and all the birds of the air, and brought them to the earth creature to be named. The earth creature gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals.

But none of them proved to be a fitting companion, so Our God made the earth creature fall into a deep sleep, and while it slept, God divided the earth creature in two, then closed up the flesh from its sides. Our God then fashioned the two halves into male and female, and presented them to one another.

When the male realized what had happened, he exclaimed,

"This time, this is the one! Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh!

Now, she will be Woman, and I will be Man, because we are of one flesh!

This is why people leave their parents and become bonded to one another, and the two become one flesh.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# Children's Couch Church

Anthony, Sarah, Adeline, and Eliza Palm

## Sermon

"Made for Joy!"

Keith M. Haithcock

## Song of Response "Dance Into Joy" -Carol Ann Camp

Steve Milloy, soloist; Eric Knechtges, piano

### Refrain

So dance into joy with hands upraised.  
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,  
and to your God sing great songs of praise. To your God sing praise!

Weave now each one this web of light surrounding our world  
both day and night with healing love and inner peace.  
Joining together, joy will increase.

## Mission Moment

*Generosity Campaign video*

Generosity Team

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**Thank you for your financial support to the mission and ministry of the Church!**  
**US mail: 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073; Online: [StJohnChurch.net](http://StJohnChurch.net)**

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## Prayers of the People

Keith M. Haithcock

## Closing Song

"Grateful" -Tom Tomaszek

Steve Milloy, vocalist

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.

## Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

## Parting Music

Steve Milloy, piano

"O Thou in Whose Presence My Soul Takes Delight" -arr. *Charity Book Putnam*

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**Call to Worship** Genesis 1.1-2.3 and **Scripture** Genesis 2.4b-24 from *The Inclusive Bible* ©1996 by Priests for Equality; **Opening Song** (#39) from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press; **Song of Response** words/music by Carol Ann Camp © 1994, 2009, from *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, © 2009 The Pilgrim Press, p. 205; **The Lord's Prayer**, Using Jesus' prayer as our model, we pray together this version from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, ©1989 The General Secretary, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. 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 for prayer; **Closing Song** by Tom Tomaszek © 2003, published by spiritandsong.com, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213, from *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, © 2009 The Pilgrim Press, p. 143. **Cover Scripture: Psalm 98.1a, 4, and 8**, based on the *American Standard Version*.