

# Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 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.*



**St. John United Church of Christ**  
Bellevue, Kentucky

# Order of Service

## Welcome to St. John Church

Keith M. Haithcock

## Gathering Music

Mark Behnken, organ

“Chorale & Fugue on A Mighty Fortress is Our God” -*Martin Luther, arr. by Dr. Mark A. Behnken*

## Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 98)

Keith M. Haithcock

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

Let the electrons circle their nuclei, Let the earth spin on its axis,  
Let the moons orbit the planets, Let the planets orbit the Sun,  
Let the Sun spiral in its galaxy, Let the galaxies revolve around their Creator,  
Together for joy!

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

## Opening Song

“Come, Celebrate with Thanksgiving”

*Tune: CHUQUISACA*

Jennie Malone, vocal leader & steel drum; Steve Milloy, piano

Come, celebrate with thanksgiving, come and worship God almighty,  
Who is creator of all things, and the giver of good gifts;  
Who came to be one among us, even dying on a cross.  
Evil has been overcome, and now death has been destroyed.

### **Refrain**

Celebrate that Christ is living and then wait for God’s great gift;  
The divine and holy Spirit now may come into our hearts.

Come, celebrate in your feasting that the God of liberation  
Brings us to new life, new wholeness, and forgives in joy and love.  
With voices and happy drumming let us sing the triumph song.  
God is alive and among us, now our dancing hearts rejoice! **Refrain**

Come, celebrate all together in this feast of heavenly love.  
We come at God’s invitation on this happy, holy day.  
Joyfully, let us now gather, celebrating unity,  
Joining our hands in thanksgiving as the family of God. **Refrain**

# The Lord's Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

## Scripture

Luke 15 (The Inclusive Bible)

Cherie Draper

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, doesn’t leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and search for the lost one until it’s found? And finding it, you put the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

“What householder, who has ten silver pieces and loses one, doesn’t light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she finds what she has lost? And when it is found, the householder calls in her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found the silver piece I lost!’ I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.”

He added, “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to their father, ‘Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.’ So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. There he squandered all his money on loose living.

After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the whole land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said, 'How many hired hands at my father's house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I'll quit and go back home and say, "I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands."' With that, the younger son set off for home.

"While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.' But his father said to one of the workers, 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the calf we've been fattening and butcher it. Let's eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found!' And the celebration began.

"Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, 'Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.'

"The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. The older son replied, 'Look! For years now I've done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!'

" 'But my child!' the father said. 'You're with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found.' "

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

“Found for Joy”

Keith M. Haithcock

## Song of Response “Dance into Joy” -Carol Ann Camp

Jennie Malone, soloist; Steve Milloy, 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

## Offerings to God

“I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” -*William Walker’s Southern Harmony/arr. Charity Book Putnam*  
Steve Milloy, piano

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## Prayers of the People

Keith M. Haithcock

## Closing Song

“Grateful” -*Tom Tomaszek*

Jennie Malone, 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

“Sunday Joy” -*Mark Hayes*

Steve Milloy, piano

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**Call to Worship** Inspired by Psalm 98; **Opening Song** (#246) from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press; **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; **Scripture** Luke 15 from *The Inclusive Bible* ©1996 by Priests for Equality; **Song of Response** words/music by Carol Ann Camp © 1994, 2009, from *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, © 2009 The Pilgrim Press, p. 205; **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*.