

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020



“You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavor? How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. You don’t build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? You don’t light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your God in heaven.” -Jesus (Matthew 5.13-16)

St. John United Church of Christ

Bellevue, Kentucky

Order of Service

Welcome to St. John Church

Keith M. Haithcock

Preparation Music

Mark Behnken, organ

“KRESMER” -*adapted by Dr. Mark A. Behnken*

Invitation to Worship

Keith M. Haithcock

It's good to be in worship today.

Psalm 98 says, “Shout to the Most High...Sing praise to Our God...with...melodious singing! I invite you to be part of this worship celebration, to join your voices in song, lift your hands in praise, and in everything give thanks to the Holy One!

Song of Praise (Sung twice)

Steve Milloy, piano and vocal leader

“Dance into Joy” -*Carol Ann Camp*

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. *Refrain*

Community Prayer & 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.

Song of Worship

Steve Milloy, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

“We Gather Together”

Tune: KREMSE

We gather together to ask for God’s blessing,
to live in community, seeking God’s will.

We come now, as sisters and brothers, confessing
the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
you call us, O Savior, to life that is new.

You draw us away from self-centered complaining.

You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.

You offer us freedom, to follow or stray.

Empowering all by the hope you engender.

Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

Mission Moment

Keith M. Haithcock, clergy delegate

Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association (SONKA) Virtual Fall Gathering

Offerings to God

Steve Milloy, soloist

“Well Done” -Jason Ingram, Matt Fuqua, & Josh Havens -arr. Ed Kerr

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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

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Scripture

Matthew 25.14-30 (The Inclusive Bible)

Cherie Draper

“Again, it’s like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to each one’s ability. Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

“After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, ‘You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.’

“The landowner said, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!’

“The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional two, saying, ‘You entrust me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.’

“The landowner said to this one, ‘Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!’

“Finally the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward and said to the landowner, ‘Knowing your ruthlessness – you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter – and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.’

“The landowner exclaimed, ‘You worthless, lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don’t sow and gather where I don’t scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand.’

“Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.”

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

“Extravagant Opportunity - Extravagant Risk”

Keith M. Haithcock

Song of Response

Theo Baldwin, vocal leader; Steve Milloy, piano

“We Are So Blessed”

We are so blessed by the gifts from your hand,
I just can't understand why you've loved us so much.
We are so blessed, we just can't find a way or the words that can say,
Thank you Lord, for your touch.

When we're empty, you fill us 'til we overflow;
When we're hungry, you feed us and cause us to know
We are so blessed, take what we have to bring;
Take it all, everything; Lord, we love you so much.

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Parting Music

Mark Behnken, organ

“St. George's Windsor” --*adapted by Dr. Mark A. Behnken*

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

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Call to Worship by Keith M. Haithcock; **Scripture** Matthew 25.14-30 from *The Inclusive Bible* ©1996 by Priests for Equality; **Song of Praise** “Dance into Joy” words/music by Carol Ann Camp © 1994, 2009, from *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, © 2009 The Pilgrim Press, (p.205); **Song of Worship** “We Gather Together” from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press, (p.421); **Song of Response** “We Are So Blessed” by William J. Gather and Gloria Gaither, from *Worship the Lord* p. 123, © 1982 Gaither Music Co./River Oaks Music; **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; **Cover Scripture** Matthew 5.13-16 *The Inclusive Bible*.