

Reign of Christ and Thanksgiving Sunday

November 22, 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

“Partita on CRIMOND” -*Gordon Young*

Invitation to Worship

Keith M. Haithcock

It is good to be in worship today.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 98, “Sing a new song to Our God, who has worked wonders, whose right hand and holy arm have brought deliverance!” That’s what the word salvation means – deliverance. Deliverance, that’s what God’s kingdom, God’s kin-dom, God’s reign, God’s dream is all about for us – freedom, hope, renewal, deliverance – salvation. I invite you to worship today, not as a spectator, but as a participant, join your voices in song, lift your hands in praise, and in everything give thanks to the Holy One!

Song of Praise (Sung twice)

Jennie Malone, vocal leader; Steve Milloy, piano

“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

Jennie Malone, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”

Tune: BRING FORTH

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! ***Refrain***

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! ***Refrain***

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! ***Refrain***

Mission Moment

Generosity Campaign

Mary Ann Reilly, Generosity Team

Offerings to God

St. John Handbell Choir

“Wade in the Water - Traditional Spiritual” -arr. Anna Laura Page

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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 25.31-46 (The Inclusive Bible)

Cherie Draper

“At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left.

“The ruler will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you blessed of my God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then these just will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.’

“Then the ruler will say to those on the left, ‘Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.’ Then they in turn will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?’ The answer will come, ‘The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.’ They will go off to eternal punishment, and the just will go off to eternal life.”

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

“Shepherd of Our Hearts”

Keith M. Haithcock

Song of Response

Jennie Malone, 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

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” -*Oliver Holden, arr. Jason D. Payne*

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** “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People” from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press, (p.181); **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*.