

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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

“Prelude in E minor/EBENEZER” -*Chopin/Williams, adapted by Dr. Mark A. Behnken*

Invitation to Worship

Keith M. Haithcock

It is good to be in worship today.

There is so much to be grateful for, so much to praise God for, and so much to be joyful about. 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)

Theo Baldwin, 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

Theo Baldwin, vocal leader; Mark Behnken, organ

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

Tune: FAITHFULNESS

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator, with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not; all of your goodness for ever will be.

Refrain

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed your hand has provided,

Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring, your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. *Refrain*

Mission Moment

Why Blessing Bags are Important

Chelsea & Kat Paravel

Offerings to God

Steve Milloy, piano

“‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus/In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found)”

-Kirkpatrick/Getty, Townend; arr. by Carol Tornquist

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Scripture

Matthew 25.1-13 (The Inclusive Bible)

Cherie Draper

“Then again, the kingdom of heaven could be likened to ten attendants who took their lamps and went to meet the bridal party. Five of them were wise, five were foolish. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they didn’t take any oil with them, but the wise ones took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. The bridal party was delayed, so they all fell asleep.

“At midnight there was a cry: ‘Here comes the bridal party! Let’s go out to meet them!’ Then all the attendants rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there won’t be enough for us; run to the dealers and get some more for yourselves.’

“While the foolish ones went to buy more oil, the bridal party arrived; and those who were ready went to the marriage feast with them, and the door was shut. When the

foolish attendants returned, they pleaded to be let in. The doorkeeper replied, ‘The truth is, I don’t know you.’

“So stay awake, for you don’t know the day or the hour.”

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 “May Your Kin-dom Come: Tending God’s Light” 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

“Triumph” -*Franck, adapted by Dr. Mark A. Behnken*

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Call to Worship by Keith M. Haithcock; **Scripture** Matthew 25.1-13 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** “Great Is Your Faithfulness” from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press, (p.423); **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*.