



A NEW BEGINNING

See, I am making all things new.

-Revelation 21.5b

St. John
United Church
of Christ

Welcome to St. John

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor

Preparation Music

Improvisation on CRUSADER HYMN

Mark Behnken, organ

Call to Worship

Richard Robbins, liturgist

Jesus meets us where we are,
on the bus, in the factory, or quarantined at home.
A call from the Christ rouses our consciousness to the grace and love
that we have been given.
How will we share such miracles in a time such as this?
What of our story might bring hope to other?
Each of us are called. We have a new beginning.
How will we follow in the way of Jesus?

Singing Together

Steve Milloy, vocalist

“God Welcomes All”

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.

Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,
we come to worship you and to learn from you.
May our time together change us for good,
inspire us to dream, renew us for service,
and make us whole for a new beginning into your future
as we respond to your call. **Amen.**

Song of Encounter

“Baptism Song”

Steve Milloy, vocalist & piano

In the beginning Word and the Spirit brought forth from nothing everything good.
Now love creating joyful beginning. Joy in us all with love understood.

(Refrain:)

Come to the waters, God’s sons and daughters. We all are children of the Lord.
New life and living, new love and giving, Blessings from water and the Word.

Child of the family Child of creation. Child of our God who fashioned us all.

Wonderful blessing, great celebration, such an occasion! We hear God call: *(Refrain)*

Prayers of the People

Keith M. Haithcock

An Offering of Music and our Gifts

Steve Milloy, vocalist

“Lead Me, Guide Me” -*Doris Mae Akers*

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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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Revelation 2.8-17

Richard Robbins

Write this to Smyrna, to the Angel of the church. The Beginning and Ending, the First and Final One, the Once Dead and Then Come Alive, speaks:

“I can see your pain and poverty—constant pain, dire poverty—but I also see your wealth. And I hear the lie in the claims of those who pretend to be good Jews, who in fact belong to Satan’s crowd.

“Fear nothing in the things you’re about to suffer—but stay on guard! Fear nothing! The Devil is about to throw you in jail for a time of testing—ten days. It won’t last forever.

“Don’t quit, even if it costs you your life. Stay there believing. I have a Life-Crown sized and ready for you.

“Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches. Christ-conquerors are safe from Devil-death.”

Write this to Pergamum, to the Angel of the church. The One with the sharp-biting sword draws from the sheath of his mouth—out come the sword words:

“I see where you live, right under the shadow of Satan’s throne. But you continue boldly in my Name; you never once denied my Name, even when the pressure was worst, when they martyred Antipas, my witness who stayed faithful to me on Satan’s turf.

“But why do you indulge that Balaam crowd? Don’t you remember that Balaam was an enemy agent, seducing Balak and sabotaging Israel’s holy pilgrimage by throwing unholy parties? And why do you put up with the Nicolaitans, who do the same thing?

“Enough! Don’t give in to them; I’ll be with you soon. I’m fed up and about to cut them to pieces with my sword-sharp words.

“Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches. I’ll give the sacred manna to every conqueror; I’ll also give a clear, smooth stone inscribed with your new name, your secret new name.”

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Amen.

Children’s Couch Church

Sarah, Anthony, Adeline and Eliza Palm

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode, guest preacher

“INTO THE UNKNOWN”

Song of Response

Steve Milloy, vocalist

“Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”

Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us, saying, “Christian, follow me.”

As of old, Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

Send Out

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

Going Forth

Improvisation on “We Shall Overcome”

Mark Behnken, organ

Thanks to: Linda Schuster, administrative support; Edward Goode, editing & production; Steve Milloy, piano; and Mark Behnken, organ.

Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Edward Goode for being our guest preacher this week as Pastor Keith spends some extra time assisting his mother as she transitions to rehab to recover from a fall.

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