



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

Steve Milloy, piano

"We Three Kings" -John H. Hopkins, arr. Janet Vogt

Call to Worship

Cherie Draper, 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

Melissa Stephens, vocalist; Sarah Palm, Clarinet

"You Walk along Our Shoreline"

You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.
We hear your voice of power, "Now come and follow me.
And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal,
Then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul."

You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth.
We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.
We spread your net of gospel across the water's face,
Our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.

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”

Melissa Stephens, vocalist

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

God, we are in the middle of a pandemic. So many people around the world are in lockdown. As hospitals reach capacity, and health care professionals are stretched to the limit, we are desperately waiting for vaccines to be rolled out. Give wisdom and speed to those working on this problem.

Help us to comfort the grieving, support those who are financially strapped, and reach out to those who are isolated and alone.

Thank you for illumination...for moments where we see you working. Thank you for the resiliency of politicians, who continued their work even after violent disruption.

Thank you for the courage of all who care for the sick. Thank you that our congregation continues to function even when we can’t meet in person.

We lift to you each person on the prayer list and each concern or need. May we work with you in bringing healing and wholeness, encouragement, comfort, and guidance to each one.

Together this week, in this cold winter season, we hold onto the promise of a Savior born to us, who comes to bring peace on earth, good news to all people.

Help us to be faithful, to act responsibly for ourselves and on behalf of those around us. Empower us to be bold in sharing with others kindness, your love and generosity. Amen.

An Offering of Music and our Gifts

Melissa Stephens, vocalist

“Lord, Here Am I” -*Jay Althouse*

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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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Mark 1.14-20

Cherie Draper

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

"LET GO AND FOLLOW ME!"

Keith M. Haithcock

Song of Response

Melissa Stephens, vocalist; Alan Imberg, guitar

"Tú has venido a la orilla (You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)"

You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.

(Refrain:)

O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling, you've called out my name.

On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you, I will seek other seas.

You know full well my possessions. Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. *(Refrain:)*

You need my hands, my exhaustion, working love for the rest of the weary –
A love that's willing to go on loving. *(Refrain:)*

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth

Theo Baldwin & Steve Phillips, piano duet

“Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

(from William Walker's Southern Harmony) -arr. Vicki Collinsworth

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