



# Lent ~ A New Beginning

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 14, 2021

***"I...will draw all people..." -Jesus***

John 12.32

## **Welcome and Lighting Candles**

Keith M. Haithcock

## **Centering Song**

Stephanie Dalsfoist, vocalist; Steve Milloy, piano

**"We Stand Humbly In God's Grace"**

Peace to you, O people, the Peace of Christ the Lord.

As we gather in God's name, we are of one accord.

Hope is but a glimmer of a dream for a new world:

God is calling us to act, bring justice through the Word.

### Chorus:

*We stand humbly in God's grace as we worship in this place.*

*Joy will be complete when we reach out to those in need.*

*We stand humbly in God's grace as we worship in this place.*

*Here we join our songs of praise with all the human race.*

Let us live the vision of graced community.

May the Truthful One move us to stand for unity.

Sisters, brothers, we are one, with Christ we're hand in hand.

Love our neighbors as ourselves, spread hope throughout the land. (*Chorus*)

## **Prayer of Confession**

Keith M. Haithcock

**Holy One, we acknowledge that we often fail to see the ways you reveal yourself to us each day. We have not pursued you or listened for your voice.**

**We are preoccupied with ourselves. We long for a new beginning and to draw closer to you and others. With your grace we turn to come home to you.**

## **Assurance of God's Grace**

Be assured children of God, that God's grace overflows for you and the whole world!

**Amen.**

## **Mission Moment**

***Let Love Flow***

Mission Offering Video

***One Great Hour of Sharing***

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

*StJohnChurch.net*

## **An Offering of Music and our Gifts**

Stephanie Dalsfoist, vocalist

"How Beautiful" -*Twila Paris, arr. Lloyd Larson*

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**Thank you for your financial support to the mission and ministry of the Church!**

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## **Prayer of Illumination**

Keith M. Haithcock

**God of love, grace, peace, and joy, thank you for the ancient words of these sacred writings. As we open our Bibles, hearts, and minds, we ask for your Spirit to bring forth understanding and meaning. Illumine our path as we seek your way. Amen.**

## **John 3.14-21**

Richard Robbins

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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**

"The Essence of the Good News"

Keith M. Haithcock

**Song of Response** (Sung twice) "Give Me a Clean Heart" Stephanie Dalsfoist, vocalist

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.  
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.  
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.  
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you. (*Psalm 51.1-12*)

**Praying Together & The Lord's Prayer**

Keith M. Haithcock

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Closing Song**

"Dream God's Dream"

Stephanie Dalsfoist, vocalist

Chorus:

Dream God's dream! Holy Spirit help us dream  
of a world where there is justice and where everyone is free  
to build and grow and love, and to simply have enough.  
The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

I'm dreaming of a world where the color of one's skin  
will mean less than what's within the person's heart.  
A world where water's clean and where air is safe to breathe.  
And every child born has enough to eat. (*Chorus*)

**Send Out**

Keith M. Haithcock

**Going Forth**

"Jesus, We Want to Meet" -arr. Ron Mallory

St. John Handbell Choir

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Today's worship leaders: those listed above and, Edward Goode, editing and production; Linda Schuster, administrative support.

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**Centering Song** "We Stand Humbly In God's Grace" words/music by Joanna Riden Aamodt and Hope Hotchkiss Shea, © 2006, this arrangement: The Praise Song Advisory Team, ©2009 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, from *Sing! Prayer and Praise* (#24); **Prayer of Confession and Assurance of God's Grace** by Keith M. Haithcock; **Prayer of Illumination** by Keith M. Haithcock; **John 3.14-21** from the *New Revised Standard Version of Holy Scripture*, © 1989 by The Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches; **Song of Response** "Give Me a Clean Heart" from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press (#188); **Closing Song** "Dream God's Dream" words/music by Bryan Sirchio, ©1992 Crosswind Music, from *Sing! Prayer and Praise* (#120).