



# Lent ~ A New Beginning

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

March 21, 2021

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

John 12.32

## Welcome

Keith M. Haithcock

## Centering Song

Jennie Malone, 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

God of grace and abundance: we confess that we have stored blessings meant for all. We have pretended that we have done enough for our neighbors, when still we see their need. For the ways in which we hinder relationships through neglect, and obstruct the love you let flow, we ask for forgiveness and turn toward your new way. Transform our hearts so our actions may follow. Free us from the fear of scarcity and open our hands to heal your people and your land. In Christ's name we pray.

**Amen.**

## Assurance of God's Grace

Friends, believe this good news: nothing can dam up the waters of God's love. Love flows to us this day, and by God's grace we are forgiven! **Thanks, be God!**

## 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*

**Welcome to The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson** Keith M. Haithcock

**An Offering of Music and our Gifts** Jennie Malone, vocalist; Steve Phillips, piano

"Come, All Believers" -*Pepper Choplin*

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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](http://StJohnChurch.net)**

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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.**

## Isaiah 49.8-12

Sally Sipperley

GOD also says:

"When the time's ripe, I answer you.

When victory's due, I help you.

I form you and use you

to reconnect the people with me,

To put the land in order,

to resettle families on the ruined properties.

I tell prisoners, 'Come on out. You're free!'

and those huddled in fear, 'It's all right. It's safe now.'

There'll be foodstands along all the roads,

picnics on all the hills—

Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,

shade from the sun, shelter from the wind,

For the Compassionate One guides them,

takes them to the best springs.

I'll make all my mountains into roads,

turn them into a superhighway.  
Look: These coming from far countries,  
and those, out of the north,  
These streaming in from the west,  
and those from all the way down the Nile!"

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 Love Flow"

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson,  
Associate General Minister of Wider Church Ministries  
and Operations and Co-Executive for Global Ministries

### **Song of Response**

"Guide My Feet"

Jennie Malone, vocalist

Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,  
guide my feet while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand while I run this race, Hold my hand while I run this race,  
hold my hand while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain.

### **Praying Together**

Keith M. Haithcock

When we have crouched in fear, Loving One, your presence has given us strength.  
When we have been alone and unsure, you have sent companions to remind us that  
no one is forgotten. When we have hung our heads in despair, you have raised up  
children who have proven that with you, all things are possible. We thank you for  
your unrelenting pursuit of our well-being; for the drops of mercy within us that make  
great rivers of compassion when we bind together. You immerse us in healing  
waters, and we are glad. Guide us to take part in shaping this world that all people  
may know such joy. Let hunger end by our open hands and generous hearts! Let  
none be thirsty! Let health be restored in body, mind, or spirit! With renewed spirits  
we pledge justice, and we will make peace. May such love flow through all your  
people, now and always. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen!**

## Closing Song

"Dream God's Dream"

Jennie Malone, 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 the call God is offering to me,  
how to use my energy and my best gifts;  
to do the work of Christ to say God, please use my life  
to spread your healing love and to live your truth. (*Chorus*)

## Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

## Going Forth

Steve Milloy, piano

"Lead Me to Calvary" -*William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. Victor Labenske*

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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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