



# Lent ~ A New Beginning

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

**Third Sunday in Lent**

March 7, 2021

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

John 12.32

## **Welcome and Lighting Candles**

Keith M. Haithcock

## **Centering Song**

Theo Baldwin, 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 Video & Bobby Moreland

### *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

Theo Baldwin, vocalist

"Cornerstone" -*Eric Liljero, Reuben Morgan & Jonas Myrin, arr. Lloyd Larson*

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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.**

## John 2.13-22

Cherie Draper

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

"CENTERING ON THE GOOD NEWS"

Keith M. Haithcock

## Song of Response

Theo Baldwin, vocalist

"More Love to You, O Christ"

More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!

Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew.

### Refrain:

In all I say and do, more love, O Christ, to you,  
more love to you, more love to you! *(Repeat refrain)*

## 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.

## Holy Communion

### Invitation

Keith M. Haithcock

Come to the table of Jesus our Redeemer!

Jesus invites you here as part of the people of God.

Come to the table humbly,

not because you have earned a place here,

but because you need mercy and hope.

Come because you love God, and want to love God more.

Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us.

Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Come because you want to experience the mystery of God's grace.

## **Words of Institution**

On the night he was handed over, Jesus had a meal with his friends.

He took a loaf of bread and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples.

He said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine;

and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said,

"Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

## **Communion Prayer**

God our Creator,

thank you for the gift of your begotten child, Jesus the Christ, whose love pursues us our whole life long.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving your life to us in word and deed, even unto death, even death on a cross.

Come Holy Spirit, bless this simple meal and feed us with your love that we may be filled with power

to love God with all our hearts and souls and minds. Amen.

## **Sharing of the Meal**

Share the bread and the cup.

## **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We have come to the table of Christ.**

**We have eaten the bread of heaven and drank the cup of salvation.**

**God, transform us so that we may**

**see with Jesus' eyes, hear with Jesus' ears, speak with Jesus' mouth.**

**May we be the body of Christ in the world, proclaiming God's Good News. Amen.**

## Closing Song

"Dream God's Dream"

Theo Baldwin, 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 way that I want my life to go.  
I've got hope and I've got goals I'd like to meet.  
I'm reaching for the stars, but I won't forget the scars  
of Christ who died to show that the dream's for all. (*Chorus*)

## Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

## Going Forth

Steve Milloy, piano

" Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation " -*Henry Purcell, arr. Cindy Berry*

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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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