



Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

You are Welcome Here

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor

Today we celebrate Holy Communion.
Be sure to have bread and wine or juice ready.

Call to Worship - John 20.1-18

Richard Robbins & Cherie Draper, liturgists

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple – the one Jesus loved – and told them, “The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Jesus!”

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn’t enter, but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground, and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn’t understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus’ body had lain.

They asked her, “Why are you weeping?”

She answered them, “Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don’t know where they have put the body.”

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus. He asked her, “Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?”

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, "Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

Jesus said to her. "Mary!"

She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!" – which means "Teacher."

Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Aba and to your Abba, my God and your God!'"

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. "I have seen the Teacher!" she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

Hymn of Praise

St. John Ensemble and Congregation

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!

God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Easter Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

Anthem

St. John Ensemble, Steve Phillips, piano

"Revelation 19" -*Jeffrey LaValley, arr. Jack Schrader*

Children's Couch Church

Sarah, Anthony, Adeline and Eliza Palm

An Offering of Music and our Gifts

Charmaine Moore Kitsinis, soloist, Theo Baldwin, piano
"Because He Lives" –*Bill & Gloria Gaither, arr. Jack Schrader*

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US mail: 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073; Online: StJohnChurch.net

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Luke 24.1-12

Cherie Draper

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode, guest preacher

Anthem

"Grace Wins!" –*Matthew West, arr. Daniel Semsan* St. John Ensemble

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: **Let us come to the table. Alleluia!**

Communion Hymn

St. John Ensemble and Congregation

“I Come with Joy”

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here,
that Christ is risen here.**

Communion Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

One: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise....**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Keith M. Haithcock

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by
granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for
one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Easter Response

St. John Ensemble, Handbell Choir, and Congregation
Theo Baldwin & Steve Phillips, piano duet

“Easter Song” -*Anne Herring*, arr. by Charlie Beale

Hear the bells ringing, they're singing that we can be born again!
Hear the bells ringing, they're singing, “Christ is risen from the dead!
The angel upon the tombstone said, “He is risen just as He said.
Quickly now go tell his disciples that Jesus Christ in no longer dead!”
Joy to the world, He is risen, alleluia! He's risen, Alleluia! He's risen, Alleluia!

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth

Mark Behnken, organ

"Hymn to Joy" -*Jason D. Payne*

Today's worship leaders: those listed above and, St. John Ensemble: Theo Baldwin, Stephanie Dalsfoist, Lonnie Fields, Mitch Leigh, Jennie Malone, Steve Milloy, Charmaine Moore-Kitsinis, Melissa Stephens; St. John Handbell Choir: Sue Jelinek, Jan Hoeweler, Stephanie Dalsfoist, Sarah Palm; Edward Goode, editing and production; Eric Knechtges, ensemble editing; Linda Schuster, administrative support.

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