



The Gift of a Sacred Summer

Open and Affirming Sunday - June 27, 2021
St. John United Church of Christ Bellevue KY

Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.
If you would like more information about St. John Church go to www.StJohnChurch.net.
If you would like to receive *The e-Weekly* let us know at Office@StJohnChurch.net.

Gathering Music

Steve Milloy, piano

"Now Thank We All Our God" -arr. Charity Book Putnam

Greeting & Centering Scripture

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor & teacher

Prayer of the Day

One: Generous God, how do we say thank you? We appreciate it? Gracias? Asante? Merci? Is it simply the words that we say? Or is it in the ways that we live? Is it both? It is more? Is it less? Can we even come close to being grateful for who you are and what you've done?

All: Probably not.

One: But maybe the best we can do is to say the words...

All: Thank you!

One: And try to live as grateful and generous people.

All: May it be so. Amen!

Sharing Peace with Gestures (Standing)

One: May the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: And also with you.

Solo

Saba Smith, vocals; Steve Milloy, piano

"Grateful" -Tom Tomasek

Open and Affirming Statement (Spoken in unison)

Sue Jelinek

We, the members of St. John United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation. We know that as the Church we are many members, but one body in Christ. With Christ we affirm that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that we are called to act as agents of reconciliation and wholeness within the world and within the church itself.

We pledge to welcome people of all races, ages, abilities, ethnicities, socio-economic levels, sexual orientations and gender identities into the full life and ministry of the church.

We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships. We seek actively to include and support those who because of fear and prejudice find themselves in exile from a spiritual community. We commit ourselves to caring and concern for all.

Community Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

Instrumental

Steve Milloy, piano

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High *with Doxology*” -arr. Carol Tornquist

Matthew 6.24-34

Sue Jelinek

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“GRATITUDE”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Steve Milloy, voice & piano

“Dream God’s Dream” -*Bryan Sirchio*

Generous Giving

Sue Jelinek

As we leave today, please keep your masks on while in the Church house and keep distancing. You will find an offering plate in the back and in the front as you exit the Church house.

God has given each of us skills, talents, and abilities. Just think of the impact we can make through the ministry of St. John Church when our giving matches our mission.

Not only do we sustain this ministry, but we also experience change in ourselves and our community as we seek for the common good. We give thanks for each moment of time, each talent expressed, and each offering given. May God continue to bless you as you give generously.

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music

Steve Milloy, piano

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” -*George J. Elvey, arr. Mark Hayes*

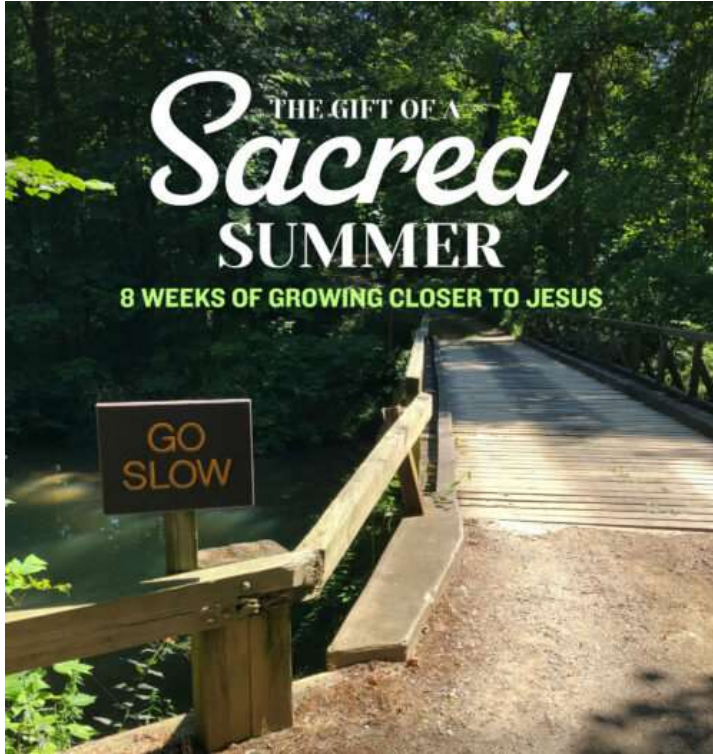
Contact Tracing Information

In an effort to keep everyone healthy, contact the Church office at 859.261.2066 ext. 201 or Office@StJohnChurch.net if you are diagnosed with COVID after this service.

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Prayer of the Day by Ed Goode; **Open and Affirming Statement** Adopted by the congregation, November 2003; **Philippians 4.6; Psalm 100.4-5; Matthew 6.25-34** from the *New Revised Standard Version of Holy Scripture*, © 1989 by The Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches;
Generous Giving by Keith M. Haithcock.



A joint effort with
Christ Church, UCC Ft. Thomas
St. John UCC Bellevue

Thursday “Circles” (Small Groups) In-
Person beginning June 24, 7pm to 8pm

Registration Information:
Each Circle session stands alone.
It’s summer! Attend as you can.
Register by email or phone:
Pastor@StJohnChurch.net
859.261.2066, ext. 202

There is not a Zoom option for this series.

Circles will go deeper on the same themes
and spiritual practices as the Sunday sermons.

**June 24, July 1, July 8, August 5, and August 12 sessions will be at
Christ Church located at 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY 41075**

**July 15, July 22 and July 29 will be at
St. John Church located at 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073**

SACRED SUMMER IS PART OF THE 2021 SPIRITUAL GROWTH SERIES