



# The Gift of a Sacred Summer

July 4, 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](http://www.StJohnChurch.net).  
If you would like to receive *The e-Weekly* let us know at [Office@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Office@StJohnChurch.net).

## Gathering Music

Steve Milloy, piano

"They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love" -arr. Charity Book Putnam

## Greeting, Prayer, & Imparting Peace

Melissa Stephens

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

All: **And also with you.**

## Solo

Steve Milloy, voice & piano

"Song of Hope (Canto de Esperanza)" -Alvin Schutmaat/Argentine folk melody

## Credo (Spoken in unison)

Lonnie Fields

**I believe in the One whose image and likeness we possess;  
the One who loves the world and shares humanity with us;  
the One who reveals holiness and love to the human spirit;  
the One who remains with us and guides us in righteousness,  
reconciliation, and love for others and ourselves.**

## Community Prayer

Melissa Stephens

## Instrumental

Steve Milloy, piano

"Something for Jesus" -arr. Robert Thygerson

## **Micah 6.8**

Lonnie Fields

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

## **Isaiah 1.16-18**

<sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings  
from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil,  
<sup>17</sup> learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
plead for the widow.  
<sup>18</sup> Come now, let us argue it out,  
says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.

## **Amos 5.21-24**

<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.  
<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

## 1 John 3.17-18

<sup>17</sup> How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

## Matthew 25.35-40

<sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

"JUSTICE"

Melissa Stephens, guest preacher

## Ministry of Music

Steve Milloy, voice & piano

"For Everyone Born" -*Shirley Erena Murray*

## Generous Giving

Lonnie Fields

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

Melissa Stephens

Going Forth Music

Mark Behnken, organ

“Patriotic Medley” -arr. Mark Behnken

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## Contact Tracing Information

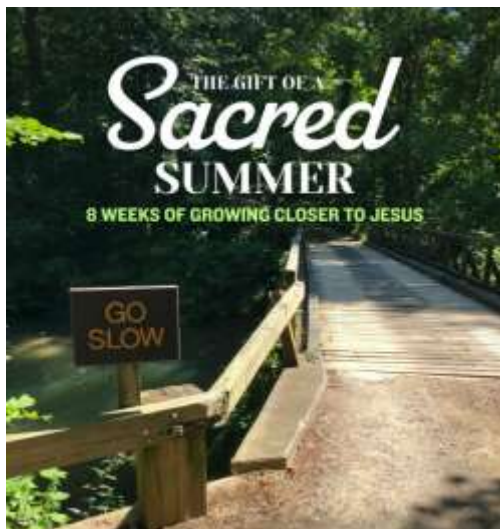
In an effort to keep everyone healthy, contact the Church office at 859.261.2066 ext. 201 or [Office@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Office@StJohnChurch.net) if you are diagnosed with COVID after this service.

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



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

**Registration Information: Each Circle session stands alone. It’s summer! Attend as you can. Please register at: [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net) or 859.261.2066, ext. 202 to receive weekly reminders and updates.**

**There will not be a Zoom option for this series.**

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

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

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