



# Summer Worship at St John

August 22, 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

Theo Baldwin, piano

"Ceaseless Praise" -Anthony Giamanco

## Greeting & Imparting Peace

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor & teacher

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

All: **And also with you.**

## Solo

Megan Osborn Williams, vocals; Theo Baldwin, piano

"Fill Us with Your Love" -Folk song from Ghana, words by Tom Colvin

## Credo (Spoken in unison)

Bill Machuga

**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

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Gracious God, we come before you with thanksgiving for the dream of America. We pray especially for our government; that our motives and decision making would be aligned with your will and dream for equality, justice, and wholeness for all people. We pray for each and every member of the military and that our nation's passion would be for peace with justice. We pray

for the land and waters of the earth that your creation would be healed from the harmful acts of humanity.

One: God, please forgive and transform our nation

**All: where toddlers and school children die from guns sold quite legally.**

One: God, please forgive and transform our nation

**All: that lets children be the poorest group of citizens quite legally.**

One: God, please forgive and transform our nation

**All: that lets the rich continue to get more at the expense of the poor quite legally.**

One: God, please forgive and transform our nation

**All: that thinks security rests in military might rather than in mothers, and bombs rather than in babies.**

One: God, please help us never to confuse what is quite legal with what is just and right in your sight and in your heart. We pray as sisters and brothers the prayer of Jesus...

**All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

## Instrumental

Theo Baldwin, piano

*"Transfiguration" -Paul Taylor*

## Jeremiah 2.26-32

Bill Machuga

As a thief is shamed when caught,  
so the house of Israel shall be shamed—  
they, their kings, their officials,  
their priests, and their prophets,  
<sup>27</sup> who say to a tree, "You are my father,"  
and to a stone, "You gave me birth."  
For they have turned their backs to me,

and not their faces.  
But in the time of their trouble they say,  
“Come and save us!”  
28 But where are your gods  
that you made for yourself?  
Let them come, if they can save you,  
in your time of trouble;  
for you have as many gods  
as you have towns, O Judah.  
29 Why do you complain against me?  
You have all rebelled against me,  
says the LORD.  
30 In vain I have struck down your children;  
they accepted no correction.  
Your own sword devoured your prophets  
like a ravening lion.  
31 And you, O generation, behold the word of the LORD!  
Have I been a wilderness to Israel,  
or a land of thick darkness?  
Why then do my people say, “We are free,  
we will come to you no more”?  
32 Can a girl forget her ornaments,  
or a bride her attire?  
Yet my people have forgotten me,  
days without number.

## **Jeremiah 7.3-7**

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. <sup>4</sup> Do not trust in these deceptive words: “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.”

<sup>5</sup> For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, <sup>6</sup> if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, <sup>7</sup> then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.

## **John 13.1-17** (Rise in body or spirit.)

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

"INCARNATION"

Keith M. Haithcock

## **Ministry of Music**

Megan Osborn Williams, vocals; Theo Baldwin, piano

"How Beautiful" - *Twila Paris*, arr. *Lloyd Larson*

## **Generous Giving**

Bill Machuga

As we leave today please keep your masks on and greet one another after you exit the Church house while observing 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.

## **Baptism of Gina Ann Wimsatt**

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**All: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

One: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

## **Address**

One: Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you have come to me!"

**All: Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.**

One: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

**All: Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."**

One: At another time Jesus said: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

**All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

## Questions

One: Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidate: I do.**

One: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Candidate: I do.**

One: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Candidate: I do.**

One: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.**

One: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence, and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.**

## Congregational Assent

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Gina, as she lives and grows in Christ?

**All: We promise our love, support, and care.**

## Affirmation of Faith

One: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**All: I believe in God.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

## Prayer of Baptism

One: God dwells in you.

**All: And also in you.**

One: Let us pray.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

**All: In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.**

One: In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

**All: In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.**

One: Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

## **Pouring of the Water**

One: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in Gina that she may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end.

**All: Amen.**

## **Act of Baptism**

One: Gina Ann Wimsatt, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: One God - the Mother of us all.

**All: Amen.**

One: The Holy Spirit be upon you, Gina, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

## **Act of Praise**

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

## **Prayer for the Baptized**

## Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

One: May the living Christ go with you,  
before you to light the way,  
behind you to encourage you,  
beside you to befriend you,  
beneath you to sustain you,  
above you to watch over you,  
and within you to give you peace.

All: Amen!

## Going Forth Music

Theo Baldwin, piano

“Redemption” -Bethany K. Smith

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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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## ZOOM BIBLE ENCOUNTER

### *The Nature of the Bible*

a five-week series

facilitated by Dean Griffith

Thursdays from 6:30p to 7:30p

September 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2021

The study will look at several questions about the book itself, in its present form, as a basis for studies of its content. The five classes will include questions of inspiration, authenticity, historical and translation accuracy, with thoughts about how we know what we know - and what we *don't* - and how the text has changed over its life. The final week will look at why and how the Bible has become so central to our faith.

To register for the Zoom log-in email [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net), or call 859.261.2066, ext. 202 by Monday, August, 30.