



# St. John Church

October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday

You are invited to grow in generosity, faith,  
and in relationship with God.

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## Centering Scripture

*“Then Our God said, ‘It is not good for the earth creature to be alone. I will make a fitting companion for it.’ So from the soil Our God formed all the various wild beasts and all the birds of the air, and brought them to the earth creature to be named. Whatever the earth creature called each one, that became its name. The earth creature gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals.*

*But none of them proved to be a fitting companion, so Our God made the earth creature fall into a deep sleep, and while it slept, God divided the earth creature in two, then closed up the flesh from its sides. Our God then fashioned the two halves into male and female, and presented them to one another.*

*When the male realized what had happened, he exclaimed,*

*‘This time, this is the one!*

*Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh!*

*Now, she will be Woman, and I will be Man,*

*because we are of one flesh!” -Genesis 2.18-23 (The Inclusive Bible)*

## Gathering Music

Steve Milloy, piano

*“Wonderful Words of Life” -Phillip Bliss, arr. David Hamilton*

## Greeting

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor & teacher

## Jamaican Hymn

Theo Baldwin, voice; Steve Phillips, piano; Steve Milloy, drum

*“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

*Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of Joy:*

*bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.*

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Words around: loaves abound!*

## Call To Worship

Sue Jelinek

One: We were created in relationship and for relationship.

**All: We are created for community!**

One: God knew it was not right for us to be alone.

**One: We are created for community!**

One: Through Jesus Christ, God entered into human relationship with us.

**All: We are created for community!**

One: We rejoice in our unity with all humanity.

**All: We are created for community!**

## Prayer of Confession

Keith M. Haithcock

One: God-made-flesh, bone of our bone,  
we confess that we think we can go it alone,  
that we try to do it all,  
that in doing so, we neglect the gifts you have given us:  
The bone of our bone, the flesh of our flesh,  
The bodies you created, and the relationships you created us for.

**All: Jesus Christ, you who lived in a human body, call us to community.**

**Remind us that in you we are one.**

**Awake in us a respect for one another,  
and celebrate with us the diversity within that unity.**

One: May it be so now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

## Assurance of Grace

One: You are the divine creation, and it is not right for you to be alone.  
Know now that you are forgiven and called back into relationship with God  
and with one another.

## Passing the Peace (Rise in body or spirit.)

One: May the peace of God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Community Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

## **Mark 10:2-16** (Rise in body or spirit.)

Sue Jelinek

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup> He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup> They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup> But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup> ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

<sup>10</sup> Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup> and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Duet**

Theo Baldwin and Steve Milloy, voice

“You Walk with Me” -*David Yazbek*

## **Sermon**

“ENFOLDING LOVE”

Keith M. Haithcock

## **Ministry of Music**

Theo Baldwin, voice; Steve Milloy, piano

“The Power of Your Love” -*Geoff Bullock, arr. Lloyd Larson*

# Celebration of World Communion

Officiants: Rev. Sue Jelinek and Rev. Keith M. Haithcock

## Invitation to the Table

Keith M. Haithcock

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey  
you are welcome at Christ's table.

If you are a member of this Church, a member of another Church,  
or a member of no Church at all you are welcome at Christ's table.

## Song

"There's Bread for the Journey" -*Jim Strathdee* Theo Baldwin, voice  
There's bread for the journey and friends for the way,  
There's hope for tomorrow and love for today.  
The cup of forgiveness, all blessings release,  
to heal and renew us and bring us God's peace.  
O Holy Spirit, bind us together, now.  
O Holy Spirit, bring us your peace.

## Our Story of Communion and Connection

Keith: God created one person.

*Sue: But it was not right for that one person to be alone.*

Keith: That person had God, but needed an equal, so God made animals.

*Sue: How about a Giraffe, a Raven, a Dog? Any other animal you can name.*

Keith: But it still wasn't enough, so God made another person, an equal, someone to  
share with, and talk with.

God created relationship.

God created communion.

*Sue: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!*

Keith: And then God took it one step further.

God looked at the many people  
living in relationship with one another  
and decided to join the community!

God came to be with us as one of us,  
and his human family called him Jesus.

*Sue: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!*

**All: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

*Sue: And one night, when Jesus sat with his community,  
he took bread, and broke it, and blessed it, saying,  
“This is my body.”  
Then he took the cup, saying,  
“This is my blood.”*

**All: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

Keith: Come, Holy Spirit, and make us one body of Christ.

**All: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

*Sue: Bone of our bone; flesh of our flesh.*

*One with each other and all humanity: the Body of Christ.*

Keith: Bless, Holy One, this bread and cup as we remember Jesus – his words, his life, his ways. Embolden us to be Christ’s body for a just world for all.

*Sue: We invite you now to partake the bread and the cup together.*

*The bread of heaven, and the cup of salvation: strength for the journey.*

## **Singing Together During Communion**

Theo Baldwin, voice

“Santo, Santo”

Santo, santo, santo, mi cor-a-zon te a-dora!  
Mi cor-a-zon te sa-be de-cir: santo e-res Dios.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy God

## **The Prayer of Jesus**

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.**

## **Call for the Offering**

Sue Jelinek

In communion with one another, let us share what we have received,  
knowing that we are one flesh with all humanity.

There are offering plates available at both the front and back of the Sanctuary. You may place your offering there as you leave. May God continue to bless you as you give generously.

## Prayer of Dedication

God of all creation, breathe your life-giving breath upon these gifts that they might be a blessing to all flesh. **Amen.**

## Parting Song

Theo Baldwin, voice; Steve Phillips, piano; Steve Milloy, drum  
“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share; God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Words around: loaves abound!

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

Sue Jelinek and Keith M. Haithcock

## Going Forth Music

Steve Milloy, piano

“I Don’t Know Why (Jesus Loves Me)” - *Andraé Crouch, arr. Mark Hayes*

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## Welcome to St. John Church!

St. John United Church of Christ, 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073

For more information about St. John Church go to: [www.StJohnChurch.net](http://www.StJohnChurch.net).

To receive *The e-Weekly* let us know at [Office@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Office@StJohnChurch.net).

To meet with the Pastor call: 859.261.2066, ext.202; email: [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net).

## 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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