



**IGNITE
2022**

**Justice
Diversity
Inclusion**



St. John
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Anti-Racism - Accessible to All - Open and Affirming

*"We extend love and extravagant welcome
to all of God's children without judgment,
no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey."*

January 23, 2022

Welcome to St. John Church!

Masks are required and must always cover nose and mouth.
Contact tracing information is requested to contain virus transmission.
Please extend a respectful courtesy by silencing your cell phone.
Assistive listening devices are at the Welcome Table in the back.
Offering plates are in the front and rear of the Church.

E p i p h a n y

Welcome

No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome here!

Gathering Music & Lighting Candles (10:20a)

Steve Milloy, piano; Bennet Draper, Acolyte
"Hiding in Thee" -Ira D. Sander, arr. Victor Labenske
"Blues & Fugue in D Minor" -Willard A. Palmer

Greeting and Centering Affirmation

Keith M. Haithcock

One: In service to Christ, this intentionally inclusive congregation feeds the body, mind, and spirit, gives strength, and shines God's light wherever there is darkness.

All: **We are a beacon of hope and inspiration. This ministry is open, affirming, inviting, and accessible to all. We extend love and extravagant welcome to all of God's children without judgment, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. We embolden everyone to live out their faith, to engage in ministry, to witness, and to serve.**

Opening our Heart

One: Let us open our hearts to God.

(Silence is kept.)

**All: Loving God, you have come to us in Jesus;
yet we confess that we often refuse to receive you.
We live in the world as if we did not know you.
Showing your love for all peoples,
you guided sages from distant lands to worship Jesus, your child.
Although we know of this love, we limit our love, building walls rather
than bridges and denying our connection with all those you love.
Forgive us and give us new hearts to love and serve you.
Write your Word within us. Make yourself known to us as we live today.
We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, in whom you reveal yourself.
Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

One: Be of good courage,
for God sent the Word into the world not to judge but to save.
I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ:
Your sin is forgiven. Through the power of the Spirit.

All: Let us live as children of God. Amen!

Opening Hymn

“God Welcomes All”

Jennie Malone, voice

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.

Call to Prayer

Philippians 4.6-7

Keith M. Haithcock

Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Community Prayer

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Melissa Artopoulos

¹²The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts – many though they are – comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. ¹³It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body.

All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. ¹⁴And that Body is not one part; it is many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," does that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁶If the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our sense of smell? ¹⁸Instead of that, God put all the different parts into one body on purpose. ¹⁹If all the parts were alike, where would the body be? ²⁰They are, indeed, many different members but one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," any more than the head can say to the feet, "I do not need you." ²²And even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable. ²³We honor the members we consider less honorable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety ²⁴which the more presentable do not need. God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to the lowly members ²⁵that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. ²⁷You, then, are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it. ²⁸Furthermore, God has set up in the church, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators and those who speak in tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles ³⁰or have the gift of healing? Do all speak in tongues, or do all have the gift of interpretation of tongues? ³¹Set your hearts on the greater gifts. But now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others.

Luke 4.14-21 (Rise in body or spirit.)

¹⁴Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. ¹⁵He was teaching in the Galilean synagogues, and all were loud in their praise. ¹⁶Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his habit, Jesus stood up to do the reading. ¹⁷When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of our God is upon me: because the Most High has anointed me to bring Good News to those who are poor. God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive, recovery of sight to those who are blind, and release to those in prison – ¹⁹to proclaim the year of our God's favor."

²⁰Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he said to them, "Today, in your hearing, this scripture passage is fulfilled."

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Song of Response

"Gloria a Dios"

Jennie Malone, voice

¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria los cielos!

¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria los cielos!

¡A Dios la gloria por siempre! A Dios la gloria por siempre!

¡Alleluya, amén! Alleluya, amén! ¡Alleluya, amén! Alleluya, amén!

¡Alleluya, amén! Alleluya, amén! ¡Alleluya, amén! Alleluya, amén!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

To God be glory forever! To God be glory forever!

Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen!

Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen!

Homily

"*EMBOLDEN MINISTRY*"

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone, voice

"Spirit, Open My Heart" -*Traditional Irish melody, lyrics by Ruth Duck*

Ignite 2022 Moment

Anti-Racism

Anthony Palm

An Invitation to Share our Gifts

Melissa Artopoeus

When we give our gifts: tithes and offerings, talents and time,

we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ.

You are invited to give as generously as you have received.

Offering plates are 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.

An Offering of Music

Steve Milloy, piano

"They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love *with* Blest Be the Tie"

-*Peter Schottes/J. Fawcett & J.G. Nageli, arr. Carol Tornquist*

Unison Blessing of our Gifts

Melissa Artopoulos

Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.

Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.

And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen.

Closing Song (Please rise in body or spirit.)

Steve Milloy, vocal and piano

"Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos" (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music

Steve Milloy, piano

"The Church's One Foundation" -*Samuel S. Wesley, arr. Jason W. Krug*

Welcome to St. John Church!

For more information about St. John Church go to: www.StJohnChurch.net.

To receive *The e-Weekly* or Prayer List, email Office@StJohnChurch.net.

To meet with the Pastor call: 859.261.2066, ext.202; email Pastor@StJohnChurch.net.

To make a prayer request for the Prayer List, email PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net

No online connection? Call the office at 859.261.2066, ext. 201 for all these things.

Office hours: Tuesdays 10am to 5pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am to 2p.m.

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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