



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."*

February 20, 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)

Theo Baldwin, piano; Bennett Draper, Acolyte

"Here I Am to Worship" "O Worship the King" -*Tim Hughes/J. M. Haydn, arr. Carol Tornquist*

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" -*Welsh Hymn Tune, arr. Mark Hayes*

"Praise Him, Praise Him" -*Chester G. Allen, arr. Hayes*

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 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” Jennie Malone, vocal

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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 15.35-38, 42-50

Dale Clark

³⁵Perhaps someone will ask, “How are the dead to be raised up? What kind of body will they have?” ³⁶What a stupid question! The seed you sow does not germinate unless it dies. ³⁷When you sow, you do not sow the full-blown plant but a kernel of wheat or some other grain. ³⁸Then it is given the body God designed for it—with each kind of seed getting its own kind of body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is a perishable body, what is raised is incorruptible. ⁴³What is sown is ignoble, what is raised is glorious. Weakness is sown, strength is raised up. ⁴⁴A natural body is sown, and a spiritual body is raised up. If there is a natural body, then there is also a spiritual body.

⁴⁵The first Adam, as scripture says, “became a living soul,” but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶That is, the natural comes first, not the spiritual; after that comes the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second is from heaven. ⁴⁸As this earthly one was, so are we of the earth; and as the One from heaven is, so are we in heaven. ⁴⁹And we, who have been modeled on the earthly, likewise will be modeled on the One from heaven.

⁵⁰Put another way, sisters and brothers, I declare to you that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Neither can the perishable inherit what is imperishable.

Luke 6.27-38 (Rise in body or spirit.)

²⁷“To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. ³⁰Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don’t demand it back.

³¹“Do to others what you would have them do to you. ³²If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. ³³If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ do as much. ³⁴If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to other ‘sinners,’ expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You’ll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

³⁶“Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. ³⁷Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Pardon, and you’ll be pardoned. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down,

shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you'll be given back.”

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, vocal

¡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

“*LOVE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT*”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone, vocal

“God, You Made Us in Your Image” -*Stephen Andrews & Lloyd Larson, with BEACH SPRING*

 **Ignite Moment** *Ignite Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion 2022*

Linda Nesbitt

An Invitation to Share our Gifts

Dale Clark

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

The Handbell Choir

“Lord I Want to Be a Christian” -*arr. Paul Ingram*

Unison Blessing of our Gifts

Dale Clark

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

“Peace I Leave with You”

Jennie Malone, vocal

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you.
Not as the world gives, I give my peace to you.

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music

Theo Baldwin, piano

“I Am Thine, O Lord” -*W. H. Doane, arr. David Paxton*

Memorial Prayers for Dan Ruck,

loving husband of Sandy Ruck,

will follow today's worship service beginning approximately at
11:45 a.m.

A brief service of
remembrance, scriptures, and prayers.

You are welcome to be present and support the Ruck family.

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 and Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm.

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