



First Sunday in Lent

*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.*

March 6, 2022

Welcome!

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.
Sign Language interpretation is available in the front.
Assistive listening devices are at the Welcome Table in the back.
Offering plates are in the front and rear of the Church.

Gathering Music & Lighting Candles (10:20a)

Steve Milloy, piano; Adeline Palm, Acolyte

"Just As I Am" -W. R. Bradbury, arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" -Spiritual, arr. C. E. Walz

"What Wondrous Love is This" -American Folk Tune, arr. Charity Book Putnam

Centering Prayer

You are the God who disrupts our lives with an invitation. During this season of Lent, may we stop and may we start again: may we stop our strivings marked by greed and anxiety, may we start again the work of compassion and generosity. Amen.

Greeting and Call to Worship (10:30a)

Keith M. Haithcock

One: We have gathered in the presence of God our creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.

All: We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we may know its joy.

One: We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

All: In our living and in our dying, we belong to God. In the shadow of God's wings, we sing for joy. Let us worship God.

Introit

“Pero Queda Cristo”
(My Soul Overflows with Praise)

Jennie Malone, vocal

At early dawn we sing a song of adoration
to God who is our only hope and our salvation.
At early dawn we raise our longing invocation;
For God’s sweet calm we beg in fervent supplication.

God’s heart is full of love and mercy for us,
From all our brokenness God will restore us.
Our God is strong and will forsake us never,
From death itself God sets us free forever.

Opening Our Heart

One: Let us open our hearts to God.

(Silence is kept.)

**All: Loving God, we own up to the mark that you have given us to live by.
You come to us in Jesus, revealing your love for all people
and suffering pain for us;
still we do not turn in love and obedience to you.**

**We do that which we ought not to do,
and we leave undone those things we ought to do.
Aimless and rebellious as we are,
we cannot trust in ourselves;
we can trust only in your grace.**

**Speak the word, O God,
and we shall be made free.
Forgive us, receive us,
and give us courage to serve you
with renewed hearts and wills. Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

One: Be assured, in the name of Jesus Christ:

**All: Our sins are forgiven.
Our faith and God’s love has made us free.
In Christ we are a new creation. Thanks be to God!**

Opening Hymn “O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free” Jennie Malone, vocal

O Love, how vast, how flowing free, O Love how filled with ecstasy,
That God a human form should take, and mortal be for mortals' sake.

For us baptized, and fasting long, for us was tempted by the wrong,
For us the pangs of hunger knew; for us the Tempter overthrew.

Then for God's boundless love sing praise through endless ages, countless days;
By Love we have been reconciled: salvation gained through God's own Child.

Community Prayer

Luke 4.1-13 (Rise in body or spirit.) Richard Robbins

¹ Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert ² for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

³ The Devil said to Jesus, “If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “Scripture has it, ‘We don't' live on bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. ⁶ The Devil said, “I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish.

⁷ Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours.”

⁸ In reply, Jesus said, “Scripture has it: ‘You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.’”

⁹ Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, “If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for scripture has it, ‘God will tell the angels to take care of you; ¹¹ with their hands they'll support you, that you may never stumble on a stone.’”

¹² Jesus said to the Devil in reply, “It also says, ‘Do not put God to the test.’”

¹³ When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “JESUS AND TEMPTATIONS” Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone, vocal

“Take My Hand, Precious Lord” -*Thomas A. Dorsey, arr. Joel Raney*

An Invitation to Share our Gifts -*Mathew 5.14-16*

Richard Robbins

One: “You are the light of the world. You don’t build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you?”

All: No!

One: You don’t light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you?

All: No!

One: No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your God in heaven.”

All: May it be so!

One: Offering plates are available at both the front and back of the Sanctuary. You may place your offering there as you leave. May God bless you as you give your gifts generously to continue this ministry of justice, diversity, and inclusion, a beacon of hope and inspiration.

Unison Blessing of our Gifts

God, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries in the days ahead that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen

Communion Liturgy for the Season of Lent

Invitation to Communion

One: Friends we are going to Jerusalem with Jesus,

All: who is our pardon, our healing, and our peace.

One: We will suffer the trial with Jesus, resisting evil.

All: We will walk the path to life with Jesus.

One: Come first to the table where there is food for the journey.

All: With hearts full of joy, we come with thanks and praise to our maker!

Praise

One: We are right to praise you, faithful God!

You answer sin with grace; you guide our wayward steps toward home.

You are mending
for the broken,

safety for the poor,
belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak,
and pardon for the sinner.

You reveal your kindness in every sorrow and your mercy even in death.

All your creatures see your works; they sing your steadfast love.

We too declare your wonder and grace as with angels and saints we sing:

All: Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.

Remembering and Giving Thanks

One: Now, O God, we remember Jesus.

Silence is kept...

One: He fasted and prayed and was tempted and tried.

All: Relying on you for everything.

One: Jesus was obedient to you and scorned by the powers of this world.

All: Jesus confounded the haughty and gave hope to the humble.

One: Jesus, betrayed and deserted, died between thieves, and laid in a borrowed grave.

All: You gave new life through Christ who lives even now, our healer and friend.

One: Christ loves us well, loved us to the end, and loves us to new beginnings.

All: Even on the night of betrayal, Christ ate supper with friends.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

One: Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new.

Bless this bread which you have given, and human hands have made.

All: Let it become for us the bread of life.

One: Also bless this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

All: Let it become for us the cup of salvation.

One: Bless us also who eat and drink,

**All: that in this meal we may know the living Christ in our lives, in each other,
and in all for whom Christ came. Amen.**

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, merciful God,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice, you have made our own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy communion —
oneness of heart,
love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Parting Song (Rise in body or spirit.)

Congregation and descant, vocalist

(Masks remain on and all may sing together.)

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The service is ended, O, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God’s realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music

Steve Milloy, piano

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” -*Spiritual*, arr. Mark Hayes

Stay Connected at 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.

Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00am to 4:00pm.

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.

IGNITE 2022

Justice – Diversity – Inclusion

Anti-Racism - Accessible to All - Open and Affirming



Ignite 2022 is an initiative grounded in justice, diversity, and inclusion to 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. Everyone is invited and encouraged to engage in this effort to transform St. John Church in service to Christ.

Copyrights, Notes & Acknowledgments: All items are used with permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense #A-712481.

Centering Prayer, from *A Way Other Than Our Own – Devotions for Lent*, © 2017 Walter Brueggemann, p.11; **Greeting and Call to Worship** from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p. 490; **Introit** “Pero Queda Cristo” (My Soul Overflows with Praise) from *The New Century Hymnal*, © 1995 The Pilgrim Press (p. 88); **Opening Our Hearts and Assurance of Grace** inspired by the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p. 491-492; **Opening Hymn** “O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free” from *The New Century Hymnal*, © 1995 The Pilgrim Press (p. 209); **Community Prayer** from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, adapted, p. 493; **Luke 4.1-13** from *The Inclusive Bible* © 2007 by Priest for Equality; **An Invitation to Share our Gifts** Matthew 5.14-16 from *The Inclusive Bible* © 2007 by Priests for Equality; **Unison Blessing of Our Gifts** from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p. 551-H; **Communion Liturgy for the Season of Lent** from RevGalBlogPals: <https://sicutlocutusest.com/2013/02/07/a-communion-liturgy-for-lent/>, adapted by Keith M. Haithcock, SANTUS* “Holy, Holy, Holy” from *The New Century Hymnal*, © 1995 the Pilgrim Press (p. 793); **Parting Song** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” from *The New Century Hymnal*, © 1995 The Pilgrim Press (p. 76).



Accessible To All (A2A) Events

Use the QR code to submit your registration for upcoming A2A events and you will receive, “A2A Disability Etiquette: What You Should Know,” access to the videos, and Zoom login details for the discussions on March 10, 17, 24, & 31 at 6:30 pm.



For more information or to register by phone call Sandy Kerlin at 859.653.4455.

Reforming Team 2-23-22 News

The Reforming Team knows everyone at St. John would like to “give COVID up for Lent.” We’re all tired of the restrictions that we have followed so faithfully for the last ten months, and we have a sense that things may be finally opening up around the country.

Please note, however, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has not changed its masking and social distancing guidelines, though are expected to in the next several days. Nor has the State of Kentucky. The Reforming Team has been using this guidance to inform our decision making as to how to keep everyone safe in our building.

At this writing, even though the case load is declining, Kentucky has the 2nd highest number of cases per capita (77 per 100,000 people) and 5th highest in real terms (3642) of any state. The case rates in Campbell, Kenton, and Boone (38 per 100,000) counties are substantially better than the rest of Kentucky but still 3 times the rate of Hamilton County.

The Reforming Team continues to look to the CDC, the State of Kentucky, and to the United Church of Christ for guidance in providing a safe environment for all who enter our building for worship,

In our weekly meetings, we will keep an eye on the declining number of cases, and look for new instruction from the CDC, which will determine whether we can ease any of the current restrictions in place and return to more normal church life.

The Reforming Team: Stephanie Dalsfoist, Chair, Carol Griffith, Sandy Kerlin, Regis Nesbitt, Tim Smith

St. John
United Church
of Christ