



Third 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 20, 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.
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 Phillips, piano; Adeline Palm, Acolyte

"Praise You" -*Elizabeth Goodine, arr. Jim Hammerly*

"Amazing Grace" -*arr. Cindy Berry*

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" -*arr. Howard Helvey*

Centering Prayer

In this season of Lent, teach us again the source of true power for life. Feed us with spiritual food that will fill us with energy, courage, freedom, and authority that we may be your agents of healing in the world. Amen.

Greeting and Call to Worship (10:30a)

Melissa Stephens

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

Melissa Stephens

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

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

Jennie Malone, vocal

Guide me, O my Great redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Community Prayer and The Prayer Jesus Teaches

Melissa Stephens

ALL: Great Giver, in whom heaven is found, holy is your name.

May your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth.

Give us this day bread for our journey and make us hungry to see the whole world nourished.

Forgive us and help us forgive one another.

Strengthen us for the challenges that lie ahead.

Let us hear your prophets and deliver us from our privilege.

For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need in the world and in the world to come. Amen.

Luke 13.1-9 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Sue Jelinek

¹ On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

² Jesus replied, “Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? ³ Not at all! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways. ⁴ Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ Certainly not! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways.”

⁶ Jesus told this parable: “There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. ⁷ The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn’t find any. The owner said to the vine

dresser, 'Look here! For three years now I've come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?'

⁸ "In reply, the vine dresser said, 'Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, let it be cut down.'"

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, THE FIG TREE AND FRUIT"

Melissa Stephens

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone, vocal

"I Have Chosen the Way of Truth" -Craig Courtney

Mission Moment

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sue Jelinek

An Invitation to Share our Gifts -Mathew 5.14-16

Sue Jelinek

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

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.)

Melissa Stephens

Going Forth Music

The Handbell Choir

“Now the Green Blade Rises” -arr. Matthew Prins

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.

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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.