

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



**ST. JOHN**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# THE SUNDAYS OF EASTER

*Seven Weeks of Celebration, Resurrection, and Joy!*

*Because you have raised Jesus from the dead and because you have raised us up to be a diverse, inclusive, and just community of faith through Christ, we praise you with joy.*

Second Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022

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## **Welcome!**

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

Masks are required when you enter, move about, or sing in the Church house.

Masks are optional when you are seated in a pew and physically distanced.

As a courtesy to others silence your phone.

Assistive listening devices are available in the back.

Offering plates are in the front and rear of the Church.

Remember to offer your contact data at the door to help contain virus transmission.

## **Gathering Music & Lighting Candles** (10:20a)

Eric Knechtges, piano; Stephanie Dalsfoist, Acolyte

"Spirit, Breathe on Me" -*Ruth Elaine Schram (based on familiar hymn tunes)*

"Chant for Easter" -*Charity Book Putnam, (adapted from an 11<sup>th</sup> century Easter sequence)*

"Come, People of the Risen King" -*Keith & Kristin Getty, Stuart Townend, and John Darwall, arr. Lloyd Larson*

## **Call to Worship** (10:30a)

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair.

**All: Praise God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead.**

One: Praise God, who gathers up the fragments left by human destruction and creates new possibilities.

**All: Christ has risen!**

One: Christ has risen indeed!

(Masks on and all may sing together.)

**Opening Hymn, 241** (Rise in body or spirit.) "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

## **Opening Our Hearts**

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Easter morning takes us by surprise,  
awakening us to the doubt and despair  
that have been rooted in our lives.  
Let us now confess to God.

**All: If, at times, we deny you: God forgive.**

**If, at times, when the risks of discipleship are high,  
we are nowhere to be found: God forgive.**

**If, at times, we wash our hands of responsibility: God forgive.**

**If, at times, we cast our lot with powerful oppressors  
and seek to buy freedom with silver: God forgive.**

**If, at times, fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth,  
or prejudice keeps us from believing it: God forgive.**

**In the bright light of Easter morning,  
our sin is exposed, but your grace is revealed.**

**Tender God, we are bold to come before you  
and ask you to forgive us.**

**Help us to leave behind our foolish doubt  
so that with joy we may witness to your awesome deeds  
in Jesus the Risen One. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Grace**

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Hear the good news:

**All: In raising Jesus from the dead,  
God has brought life and immortality to light.**

One: And hear the good news:

**All: By God's great mercy,  
we have been born anew to a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

One: In the name of Jesus, we say:

**All: Our sins are forgiven.**

**All things are made new.**

**Doubt no more; Christ is with us always. Alleluia! May it be so.**

## Instrumental

Eric Knechtges, piano

"More About Jesus/Open My Eyes, That I May See" -*Charity Book Putnam*

## Community Prayer and The Prayer Jesus Teaches

**One:** ...And we praise your name for ever; through Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray...

**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.

## John 20.19-31 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Melissa Artopoulos

<sup>19</sup>In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, <sup>21</sup>who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God sent me, so I'm sending you."

<sup>22</sup>After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven.

If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas - nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin" - was absent when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

<sup>26</sup>On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

<sup>27</sup>Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!"

<sup>28</sup>Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"

<sup>29</sup>Jesus then said,  
“You’ve become a believer  
because you saw me.  
Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus performed many other signs as well - signs not recorded here - in the presence of the disciples. <sup>31</sup>But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ Name.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.  
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

“BELIEVE!”

Keith M. Haithcock

## **Ministry of Music**

"Breathe" -*Marie Barnett*

Jennie Malone, soloist

## **An Invitation to Share our Gifts** -Matthew 5.14-16

Melissa Artopoeus

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

Melissa Artopoulos

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

(Masks on and all may sing together.)

## Closing Hymn (Rise in body or spirit.)

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

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

Keith M. Haithcock

May the living Christ go with you,  
before you to light the way,  
behind you to encourage you,  
beside you to befriend you,  
beneath you to sustain you,  
above you to watch over you,  
and within you to give you peace. Amen.

## Going Forth Music

Eric Knechtges, piano

"Dove of Peace" -Herry Strack (Tune: DOVE OF PEACE from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835)

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## Stay Connected at St. John Church!

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

To receive *The e-Weekly* or Prayer List, email [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).

To make a prayer request for the Prayer List, email [PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net](mailto: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](mailto:Office@StJohnChurch.net) if you are diagnosed with COVID after this service.

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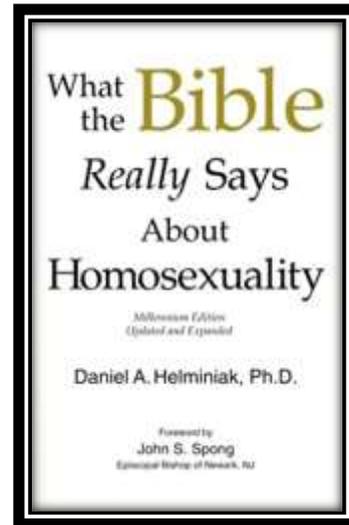
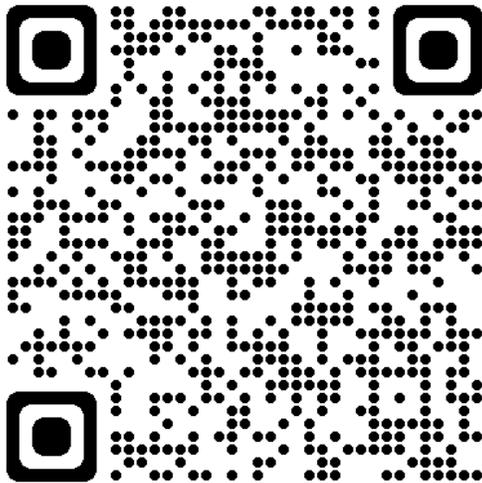


## Ignite 2022

### What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality

There will be four Zoom discussion sessions using the book, What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality, by Daniel Helminiak.

Zoom Discussion sessions: Thursdays April 21, 28, May 5, 12 - 6:30p to 7:30p.  
Register for Zoom sessions at the ONA table in the rear of the Sanctuary OR use the QR code below to register online.



## Rummage Sale News

**Friday, May 6: 5p-8p & Saturday, May 7: 9a-12 noon**

Collection Dates:

Saturdays from 11a-1p on April 23 & 30.

Sunday's you may bring items with you to worship on April 10, 17, & 24.

If you need alternate drop off times, contact Steve Phillips at 859-803-3830 or Dale Clark at 513-673-4260.

#### Restrictions

- No large appliances
- No older computers, TV's, and electronics
- No broken or damaged items
- No opened personal items
- No very heavy items



**Important: All items should be boxed if possible - Clean clothing is ok in bags or hangers. Sale prep is May 1 – 5.**