

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.

Third Sunday of Easter
May 1, 2022

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.

Sign Language interpretation is available in the front.

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)

Steve Milloy, piano; Mark Behnken, organ; Adeline Palm, Acolyte

"More Love to Thee, O Christ" -*W. H. Doane, arr. Mark Hayes*

"O God Beyond All Praising" -*Gustav T. Holst, arr. Lloyd Larson*

"Prelude & Fughetta on 'A Mighty Fortress'" -*S. E. Rogers*

Call to Worship (10:30a)

Keith M. Haithcock

One: We gather in the presence of the risen Christ, who remains with us forever.

All: When we abide in Christ, love, joy, and peace grow.

One: We are rooted in Christ's love that we may bear these fruits with all people.

All: With every race, tribe, and nation we sing:

Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, and strength be to God. Amen.

(Masks on and all may sing together.)

Opening Hymn, 198 (Rise in body or spirit.)

“Lift High the Cross”

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.

Song of Forgiveness, 544

Song leader and congregation

“Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios”
(If I Have Been the Source of Pain, O God)

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

“Peaceful Interlude” -*Teresa Wilhelmi*

Steve Milloy, piano

Community Prayer and The Prayer Jesus Teaches

One: ...We pray in Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray...

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as
we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

John 21:1-19 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Dale Clark

¹ Later Jesus again manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place.

² Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas “the Twin,” Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s children, and two other disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I’m going out to fish.”

“We’ll join you,” they replied, and went off to get into their boat.

All through the night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. ⁵ He said to them, “Have you caught anything, friends?”

“Not a thing,” they answered.

⁶ “Cast your net off to the starboard side,” Jesus suggested, “and you’ll find something.”

So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn’t haul the net in.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, “It’s the Teacher!”

Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak – he was naked – and jumped into the water.

⁸ Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land – no more than a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. ¹⁰ “Bring some of the fish you just caught,” Jesus told them. ¹¹ Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish – one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn.

¹² “Come and eat your meal,” Jesus told them.

None of the disciples dared to ask, “Who are you?” – they knew it was the savior.

¹³ Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, begot of John, do you love me more than these?”

Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ A second time Jesus put the question, “Simon, begot of John, do you love me?”

Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know I’m your friend.”

Jesus replied, “Tend my sheep.”

¹⁷ A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon, begot of John, do you love me as a friend would?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, “Do you love me?” a third time. So he said, “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

¹⁸ The truth of the matter is,
when you were young,
you put on your own belt
and walked where you liked;
but when you get old,
you will stretch out your hands
and someone else will put a belt around you
and take you where you don’t want to go.”

¹⁹ With these words, Jesus indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

²⁰ Then the savior said, “Follow me.”

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 “Christ, Be Our Light” -*Bernadette Farrell*

Steve Milloy, soloist

An Invitation to Share our Gifts -Matthew 5.14-16

Dale Clark

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

Dale Clark

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

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

One: Alleluia, Christ is alive!

All: Christ is our pardon, our healing, and our peace!

One: With the risen Christ we will walk the path to life.

All: But first we come to the table where there is food for the journey.

One: With hearts full of joy we come, offering our praise.

Praise

All: 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy, 793 (Everyone singing)

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.

(Masks on and all may sing together.)

Closing Hymn, 172 (Rise in body or spirit.) "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.) Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music Mark Behnken, organ

"Go Out with Joy" -Mary McDonald

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.

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Ignite 2022

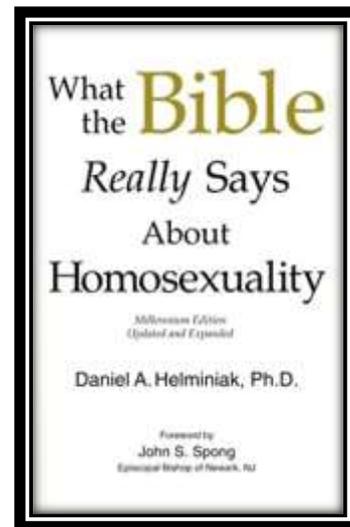
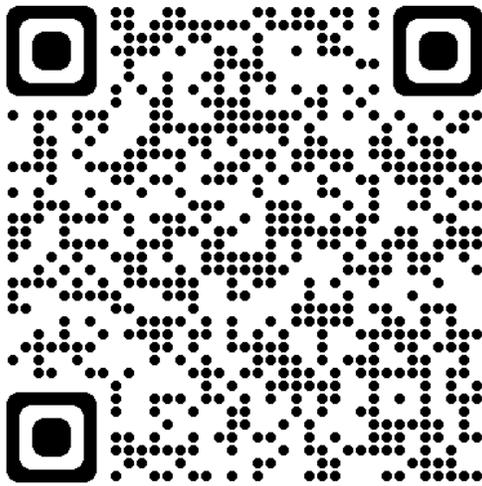
What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality

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

Zoom Discussions

Two sessions left: Thursday May 5 & May 12 - 6:30p to 7:30p.

There's still time to 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

If you need to make arrangements to drop off items, 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.