

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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15, 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.

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

"They'll Know We are Christians *with* Blest Be the Tie" -arr. Carol Tornquist

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" -Tune: **GERMANY**, arr. Terry Osman

"I'll Sing the Mighty Power of God" -Anna Laura Page

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, 28 (Rise in body or spirit.)

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Opening Our Hearts

Keith M. Haithcock

One: With all the signs of new life in Christ around us, we cling to our old ways.
Let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

All: When we do not accept as our siblings in Christ those who are different from us, forgive us, O God.

When we oppose you by opposing those who disrupt our routines and challenge our assumptions, forgive us, O God.

When we willfully disobey you and lose faith in your future, forgive us, O God.

God, in your mercy, restore us to newness of life.

Bind together your church universal through the coming of your Holy Spirit.

Empower us to witness with courage to the presence of Jesus Christ among us. Amen

Assurance of Grace

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Take heart:

All: God's Spirit empowers us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life.

One: Our sins are forgiven.

All: Let us forgive one another and give ourselves to one another in the joyful community of the risen Christ.

One: May it be so.

All: Amen.

Bells

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" -arr. *Patricia Sanders Cota*

Community Prayer and The Prayer Jesus Teaches

One: In the name of 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 13.31-35 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Sue Jelinek

- ³¹ Once Judas left, Jesus said,
“Now is the Chosen One glorified and God is glorified as well.
³² If God has been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One
and will do so very soon.
³³ My little children, I won’t be with you much longer.
You’ll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you:
where I am going, you cannot come.
³⁴ I give you a new commandment:
Love one another.
And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you.
³⁵ This is how all will know that you’re my disciples:
that you truly love one another.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER!”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

"If Ye Love Me" -*Thomas Tallis*

St. John Ensemble

An Invitation to Share our Gifts -Matthew 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

Sue Jelinek

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 Song, 389 (Rise in body or spirit.)

“Un mandamiento nuevo”

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music

Steve Milloy, piano

"This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)" -Marvin Yancy, arr. Anna Demis

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.

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

Preface from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p. 500; **Call to Worship** from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p. 498; **Opening Our Hearts/Assurance of Grace** from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p. 499-500, **The Prayer Jesus Teaches** by Parker Palmer, from Claremont United Church of Christ, Claremont, CA; **John 13:31-35** from *The Inclusive Bible* © 2007 by *Priests 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; **Send Out** by Lloyd John Ogilvie, adapted by Keith M. Haithcock.