

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 22, 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; Stephanie Dalsfoist, Acolyte

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" -Graham Kendrick, arr. Carol Tornquist

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" -Sebastian Temple, arr. Lloyd Larson

"Down to the River to Pray/Shall We Gather at the River" -arr. Pepper Choplin

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, 279 (Rise in body or spirit.)

"O God in Heaven"

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.

Instrumental

"Come, Gentle Spirit" -*John Turner*

Steve Milloy, piano

Praying Together

Keith M. Haithcock

John 14.23-29 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Richard Robbins

²³Jesus answered,

"Those who love me will be true to my word, and God will love them;
and we will come to them and make our dwelling place with them.

²⁴Those who don't love me don't keep my words.

Yet the message you hear is not mine;
it comes from God who sent me.

²⁵This much have I said to you while still with you;
but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom God will send in my name,
will instruct you in everything and she will remind you of all that I told you.

²⁷Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
but the kind of peace I give you is not like the world's peace.

Don't let your hearts be distressed; don't be fearful.

You've heard me say, 'I am going away but I will return.'

If you really loved me,

you would rejoice because I am going to God, for God is greater than I.

²⁹I tell you this now, before it happens,
so that when it happens you will believe.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"God's Dwelling Place"

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

"Come to Jesus (Untitled Hymn)" -Chris Rice, arr. Mark Hayes

St. John Ensemble



Ignite Moment

Accessible to All – Taking it to the Streets

Sandy Kerlin

An Invitation to Share our Gifts -Matthew 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

Richard Robbins

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, 249 (Rise in body or spirit.) "Peace I Leave with You, My Friends"

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

Going Forth Music "Joy in My Soul" -Mark Hayes Steve Milloy, piano

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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