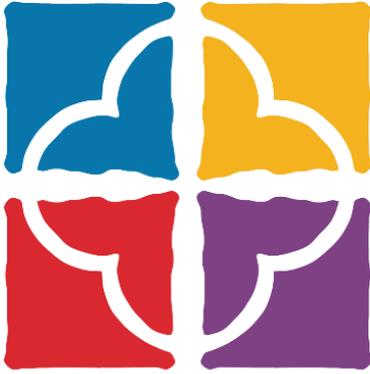


THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 29, 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)

Rachel Kramer, piano; Adeline Palm, Acolyte

"Here I Am to Worship" -*Tim Hughes, arr. Victor Labenske*

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" -*Henry Purcell, arr. Cindy Berry*

"Fanfare on 'Rise Up, O Church of God'" -*William H. Walter, arr. Tracy Craig McKibben*

"How Firm a Foundation" -*The Sacred Harp, 1844 by Joseph Funk, arr. Cindy Berry*

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.

Opening Hymn, 400 (Rise in body or spirit.) "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

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

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

"Peace" -Bob Burroughs

Rachel Kramer, piano

Community Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

Acts 16.16-34

Bobby Moreland

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul

and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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, God is Breaking Chains!"

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone, vocal

"His Eye is On the Sparrow" -*Civilla D. Martin & Charles H. Gabriel, arr. Jack Schrader*

An Invitation to Share our Gifts -Matthew 5.14-16

Bobby Moreland

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

Bobby Moreland

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

Closing Hymn, 386 (Rise in body or spirit.) “The Church’s One Foundation”

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

Going Forth Music "Festal Recessional" -*Geoffrey Andrews* Rachel Kramer, 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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