

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PENTECOST SUNDAY

*In the days to come it is Our God who speaks—
I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your children
will prophesy, your young will see visions, and your elders
will dream dreams. Even on the most insignificant of my
people, I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy.*

-Acts 2.17-18 Inclusive Bible

June 5, 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.

Visit the Welcome Table, located in the back, to learn more about St. John Church.

Gathering Music & Lighting Candles (10:20a)

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

"Now Thank We All Our God" -*Johann Crüger, arr. Charity Book Putnam*

"The Comforter Has Come" -*William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. Marty Parks*

"Holy Spirit, Fill Us with Your Power" -*Paul Manz*

Welcome, Call to Worship, & Opening Prayer (10:30a) Keith M. Haithcock

One: The Spirit descends like a dove, bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

All: The Spirit comes like a breath, bringing life to renew the people of God.

One: The Spirit spreads like fire, bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

All: Spirit of God, come to us and transform our lives by your power.

One: Pray with me. Soaring, flowing, questing, dancing...

All: The Holy Spirit leads us to praise.

One: Searching, finding, changing, challenging...

All: The Holy Spirit calls us to faithfulness.

One: Gently, calmly, simply, persistently...

All: The Holy Spirit invites us to reflection.

One: With perseverance, with encouragement, with joy, with urgency...

All: The Holy Spirit moves us to action. Amen.

Hymn, 59 (Stanzas 1 & 2 only—Rise in body or spirit.)

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

Opening Our Lives to God

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,

All: But we fear the Spirit’s power.

One: Let us confess our slowness to embrace the new life of the Spirit.

**All: We admit to you, God of our life,
that our celebration of the coming of your Spirit
is often an empty ritual.**

Through the Spirit you offer us life, but we cling to our chains.

**Through the Spirit you offer us unity,
but we continue building walls between ourselves and others.**

**Through the Spirit you offer us power,
but we shrink away in fear and doubt.**

Forgive us, O God, that we refuse the gifts you offer.

Allow us to touch the risen Christ that our doubt may be overcome.

Let us sing and dance with joy, truly celebrating your presence.

Let us move with courage into the world with the word of your love.

We pray in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: People of God, leap up, dance! The Spirit is here in healing power.

All: Our sins are forgiven.

One: Rise up in the new life of the Spirit.

Song of New Life and Action

“Holy Spirit Rain Down”

Holy Spirit rain down, rain down; O Comforter and Friend,
How we need your touch again; Holy Spirit rain down, rain down;
Let your power fall, Let your voice be heard,
Come and change our hearts as we stand on your Word; Holy Spirit, rain down.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind can know what God has in store,
So open up heaven, open it wide, over your church and over our lives.

Praying Together

Keith M. Haithcock

With joy for the gift of the Holy Spirit,
together, let us pray for the well-being of
the church, the world, and all in need, saying
God, in your mercy, **teach us your way.**

Acts 2.1-21

Melissa Artopoeus

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: “Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome—all Jews, or converts to Judaism—Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!”

All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, “What does this mean?” But others said mockingly, “They’ve drunk too much new wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: “Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! These people are not drunk as you think—it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! No, it’s what Joel the prophet spoke of:

'In the days to come—it is Our God who speaks—
I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind.
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
 your young people will see visions,
 and your elders will dream dreams.
Even on the most insignificant of my people,
 both women and men,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
And I will display wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below:
 blood, fire and billowing smoke.
The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon will become blood
 before the coming of the great and sublime day of Our God.
And all who call upon the name of Our God will be saved.'

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

 May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

St. John Ensemble

 "Something's Got a Hold on Me" -Rev. James Cleveland, arr. Steve Milloy

An Invitation to the Offering

Melissa Artopoulos

Being generous is a conscious decision from the heart to do something with what you have. Christians believe that God calls people to be generous with what God has given to them. It is a sign of trust in God, that there will be enough for everyone, so share it. Being generous isn't always about money, we can be generous in so many other practical ways.

Proverbs 3:27-28 says, Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbor "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket.

Offering plates are available at both the front and back of the Church. You may place your offering there as you leave. May God bless you as you give your gifts of time, talent, and treasure generously to continue this ministry of justice, diversity, and inclusion. A beacon of hope and inspiration.

Unison Offering Prayer

We give our offering this morning, O God,
stepping out in faith down the road of grace.
We do this together, as your people,
called and sent to be a blessing for all the world.
In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

A Liturgy for the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Keith M. Haithcock

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome at Christ's table. If you are a member of this Church, another Church, or no Church at all, you are invited to come and learn the ways of Jesus and receive love and grace. And so, we pray and proclaim...

Communion Prayer and Statement of Faith

All: We are not alone, we live in your world, O God.

One: We live in your creation – in all its wonder, in all its life.

All: We believe in you, who has created and is creating!

One: In your love, with your word, by your Spirit,
you *brought* and *bring* all things into being.
With creation, you live, entangled and entwined,
with all people, all places, all things.

**All: We believe in you, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new.**

One: In so many ways,
in so many times and places,
you spoke your words,
calling us into deeper covenant with you.
Calling us back into your love.
Through prophets and priests,
grandparents and children,
teachers and preachers
and voices in the wilderness,
you called us, again and again.

And then in Jesus, we encountered you in a new way.
Through his love, his life, his death, and his resurrection,
Jesus the Christ brought all creation, all of us, into relationship with you.

All: We believe in you, who works in us, and others, by the Spirit.

One: Spirit of the Creator,
Spirit of the Christ,
Holy Spirit, Love Divine – you live in us and with us,
turning our lives and your world upside d own –
with hope, with wonder, with challenge, with love!

All: We trust in you, O God!

One: Because life, even at the best of times, can be chaotic.
At the most difficult times,
in the moments when we can't understand what's around the corner,
when we don't know what to do, or where to go, or how to be,
we trust in your love.

All: You call us to be the Church.

One: And so, as disciples of Christ, we live with respect in creation.

All: Help us to live with even more respect, Creator of All.

One: We love and serve others.

All: Help us to love and serve with all we are, Christ Jesus.

One: We seek justice and resist evil.

**All: Help us to do more than stand and wait, but rather act rightly in the face
of wrong, Holy Spirit.**

One: We proclaim Jesus,

All: crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

One: On the night that he was taken to what would be his death on a cross,
Jesus gathered his disciples for a meal of remembrance, hope and challenge.
As the disciples gathered, he served them by washing their feet.
As the disciples ate, he taught them, helping them to understand
what would come.

As the disciples raged and disbelieved, he loved them,
even knowing he would be betrayed, even knowing he would be abandoned.

**All: And his judgment was to love them –
every single one, no matter what. This is our hope!**

One: He took bread, broke it, and gave thanks to you, God of all Creation.
Then he gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, given for you.
Each time you eat bread, remember me.”

All: God is with us. We are not alone!

One: He took fruit of the vine, poured it, and gave thanks to you, God of all Creation.
Then he gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take this, all of you, and drink it.
This is my promise, in my life’s blood, that sins are forgiven.
Each time you drink fruit of the vine, remember me.”

All: God is with us. We are not alone!

One: Send your Spirit upon this bread, and this fruit of the vine, and all who are gathered, that we might be the body of Christ alive in your creation!

All: Thanks be to God!

Receiving Communion

One: In silence, with music; eyes opened, eyes closed; breathing deeply, letting go; we receive your presence, O Christ: your body like bread, your spirit like fruit of the vine; come into our lives and live within us, through us, and beyond us. Come, O Christ, and guide us in the way of Jesus.

-Silence is kept as each one consumes the bread and then the fruit of the vine-

Prayer After Communion

One: Praying together we say...

**All: For this sacrament and life we have received, thank you God!
Help us to be your church in the days, weeks, and years to come,
filled and refreshed by your constant love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Song, 267 (Stanzas 1 only—Rise in body or spirit.) “Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

A Singing Response

“Trees of the Field”
(* * denotes claps) Isaiah 55.12

Ensemble and congregation

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.
There’ll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, * *
The trees of the field will clap their hands, * *
The trees of the field will clap their hands. * * While you go out with joy.

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.

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 26, 2022

Everyone is invited

12:15p to 2pm after worship

Bring a sack lunch

Ignite 2022

Evaluation &

Plan for 2023

Callahan Center

322 Van Voast Ave, Bellevue



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