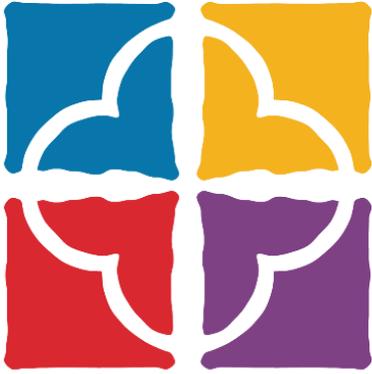


THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

*Baptized by your spirit into one body,
we testify to your faithfulness towards those
of every time, nation, people, and language,
and we give you thanks.*

July 10, 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.

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

Gathering Music & Lighting Candles (10:20a)

Steve Phillips, piano; Steve Milloy, piano; Bennett Draper, Acolyte

"Kreisleriana, Op. 16, Movement 2" -*Robert Schumann*

"Sonata in B-flat Major" -*Domenico Scarlatti*

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. Amen.

Opening Hymn, 498 (Rise in body or spirit.) "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Opening Our Lives to God

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's grace.

**All: We have promised to live as your people, God.
Yet, we confess that we fail you and one another.
We do not honor one another as we should.
As the body of Christ, we are often disjointed and clumsy.
We do not work together as one to your glory.
We refuse your cry for help in the voices of the poor and hungry.
We have not been faithful to the trust you have placed in us.**

**Merciful God, receive us as we are, and forgive us.
Encourage us with your love that we may commit ourselves anew to live
as those who belong to you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

One: Hear the good news:
In Christ we are forgiven and empowered to begin anew.

All: Thanks be to God!

Song of New Life and Action

“I’m Yours”

Refrain:

I'm yours, Lord everything I've got, everything I am, everything I'm not.
I'm yours Lord; Try me now and see, see if I can be completely yours.

My life and my love I leave in your hands; I'll gladly perform as your will demands.
I know it's not much, your gift to repay, but it's all I can give, and all I can say is...

You put in us all desire to belong, to join with your strength and thus become strong.
With that thought in mind, I reach for the prize; I lift up my voice to re-emphasize that...

Praying Together

Keith M. Haithcock

Luke 10.25-37 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Richard Robbins

²⁵ An expert on the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

²⁷ The expert on the Law replied: “You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

²⁸ Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you’ll live.”

²⁹ But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further: “And just who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead.

³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side.

³³ “But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, ³⁴ approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. ³⁵ The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, ‘Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I’ll repay you on the way back.’

³⁶ “Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbor to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?”

³⁷ The answer came, “The one who showed compassion.” Jesus replied, “Then go and do the same.”

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“CARING NEIGHBORS”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Steve Milloy

“This Is a Son” -Joel Lindsey, Chris Binion, & Don Pardoe, arr. Heather Sorenson

Announcement

A2A “Taking It to the Streets”

Jan Hoeweler

Sign up at the Welcome Table. Dates & times will be decided on the availability of those signed up.

An Invitation to the Offering

Richard Robbins

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

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

Closing Song, 541 (Rise in body or spirit.) "They Asked, 'Who's My Neighbor?'"

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

A Singing Response "Trees of the Field" Song Leader and congregation
(* * denotes claps) Isaiah 55.12

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.

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