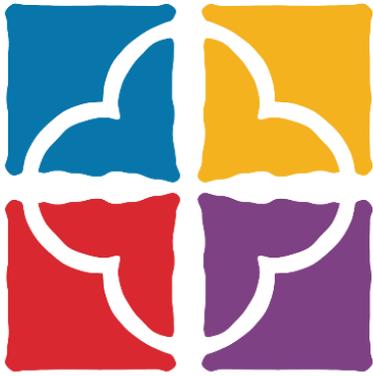


THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



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 24, 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 Milloy, piano; Bennett Draper, Acolyte

"Seek Ye First" -Karen Lafferty, arr. Carol Tornquist

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" -Charles C. Converse arr. C. E. Walz

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" -Ken Medema, arr. Lloyd Larson

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

One: Welcome to worship. Let us pray together.

All: This morning, God, we want everything to be for your glory.

**We want our thoughts, our words, our songs, our church,
our community, our resources, our time, our lives--all to be for you.**

Everything ours is yours, and we come together to declare this to be so.

Bless our time together with your holy presence, Amen.

Opening Hymn, 311 (Rise in body or spirit.)

"Renew Your Church"

Prayer of Common Confession

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Let us trust in God's grace.

All: God of collected care, we confess that we are so accustomed to pushing through difficulties, we've come to expect exhaustion as a norm. We confess that anxiety, not peace, often rules our souls. Re-orient us, we pray, towards self-healing and self-care. So that we can love others as we love ourselves. Free us from resentment and envy and remind us of the prophets in our lives who practice rest and boundaries well. May they guide us into deeper freedom and away from exhaustion and othering. We are all made for more. -Silence is kept-

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved, in Christ we are healed, freed, and forgiven

All: So that we might also be wounded healers. Amen.

Song of New Life and Action

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

- 1) I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
- 2) I'm gonna work...
- 3) I'm gonna pray...
- 4) I'm gonna sing...

Mission Moment

NKY Youth Group Kick off

Jeff Draper

Praying Together and The Prayer of Jesus

Keith M. Haithcock

One: As Jesus modeled for us, we pray...

ALL: Loving God, in whom is heaven, may your name be honored everywhere. May your kin-dom come. May the desire of your heart for the world be done, in us, by us and through us. Give us the bread we need for each day. Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others. Keep us from all anxiety and fear. For you reign in the power that comes from love which is your glory forever and ever. Amen.

Genesis 18.20-32

Jeff Draper

²⁰ So Our God said to Abraham, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is terrible, and their sin is so grave ²¹ that I must go down and see for myself. If they have done what her cry against them accuse them of, I will destroy them. If not, I need to know that, too.”

²² While the travelers walked along toward Sodom, Abraham remained in Our God’s presence. ²³ Then Abraham drew closer and said, “Will you sweep away the innocent and the guilty? ²⁴ Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent within it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty! Should the innocent and the guilty be treated the same way? Heaven forbid it! Shouldn’t the Judge of the earth act with justice?”

²⁶ Our God replied, “If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷ Abraham spoke up again: “See how I presume to speak to my Sovereign, though I am only dust and ashes! ²⁸ What if there are forty-five innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city for the lack of those five?”

“I will not destroy it,” God answered, “If I find forty-five there.”

²⁹ Abraham persisted, and said, “What if only forty are found there?” God replied, “For the sake of the forty, I will not destroy it.”

³⁰ Then Abraham said, “Let not my Sovereign grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?”

God replied, “For the sake of thirty, I will not destroy it.”

³¹ Still Abraham went on, “Since I have thus dared to speak to my Sovereign, what if there are no more than twenty?”

“For the sake of the twenty, I will not destroy it,” God answered.

³² Abraham persisted: “Please, do not be angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are only ten there?”

“For the sake of the ten,” God replied, “I will not destroy it.”

Luke 11.1-13 (Rise in body or spirit.)

¹ One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, “Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say,

‘Abba God,

hallowed be your Name!

May your reign come.

³ Give us today
Tomorrow's bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,
for we too forgive everyone who sins against us;
and don't let us be subjected to the Test."

⁵ Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, 'Lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.'

⁷ "Then your neighbor says, 'Leave me alone. The door is already locked and the children and I are in bed. I can't get up to look after your needs.'⁸ I tell you though your neighbor will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ "That's why I tell you, keep asking and you'll receive; keep looking and you'll find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. ¹¹ What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, ¹² or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? ¹³ If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"SHAPED BY PRAYER"

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music "I Then Shall Live" -*Jean Sibelius, arr. Lloyd Larson* Jennie Malone

An Invitation to the Offering

Jeff Draper

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.

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, 508 (Rise in body or spirit.) "Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire"

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

A Singing Response "Trees of the Field" Jennie Malone 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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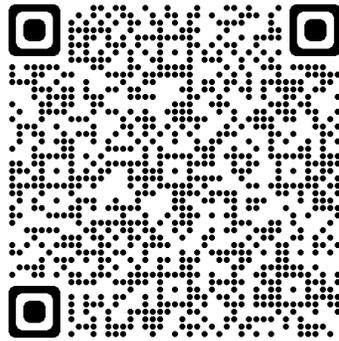
Preface from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p.504; **Welcome, Unison Call to Worship & Prayer** by Carol Penner ©Carol Penner www.leadinginworship.com July 32, 2019; **Prayer of Common Confession**; from Bill Ingraham on Sabbatical 2022 (forthcoming reference); **Song of New Life and Action** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" from *Chalice Hymnal* p.614, African-American spiritual; **Praying Together** by Keith M. Haithcock; **The Prayer of Jesus**: the prayer that Jesus taught us is found in the Gospels of Matthew (6:9a-13) and Luke (11:2a-4). The words and phrasing of the prayer are not identical in the two gospels, which indicates gospel writers may have known different versions of the prayer or understood it as a model to use in prayer; **Genesis 18.20-32 & Luke 11.1-13** from The Inclusive Bible © 2007 by Priests for Equality; **An Invitation to the Offering** from Faith at Home, The Church of England; **Unison Offering Prayer** from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p.551; **A Singing Response** "Trees of the Field" from *Worship His Majesty*, p.211 © 1975 Lillenas Pub. Co.

Taking It to the Streets

This summer the Accessible to All team (A2A) at St. John Church is ready to “take it to the streets” by engaging with Fairfield Avenue shop owners by offering the brochure, “A2A Disability Etiquette: What You Should Know”.

Signup on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary at the Welcome Table, or email Office@StJohnChurch or call the office 859.261.2066, ext. 201. By signing up you will receive detailed information to participate in this effort to widen inclusion for all.

**A2A Disability
Etiquette
Brochure**



THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**You're INVITED
to ENGAGE with
Lighthouse Youth
& Family Services**

Sunday, August 14,
10:30AM.

During worship Lighthouse presenters will enlighten us in an Ignite Moment. Following worship, in the Fellowship Hall, they will share a 35-minute presentation about their services with LGBTQI+ youth and young adults. Come • Listen • Learn • Network • Engage



ONA Team - Ignite 2022 Initiative
520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073
859.261.2066 • www.StJohnChurch.net



Parents, youth, and volunteers are invited to a casual meet and greet of the Northern Kentucky Youth group, Sunday, July 31, at 5:30 at the Lakeside Presbyterian Church carriage house. We'll share a cookout, get to know each other, and take the first steps in launching this combined youth group. [Click Here](#) or scan the QR code to let us know you are coming

Youth Meet & Greet

July 31, 5:30PM
Lakeside Presbyterian Church
2690 Dixie Hwy.
Lakeside Park, KY 41017

