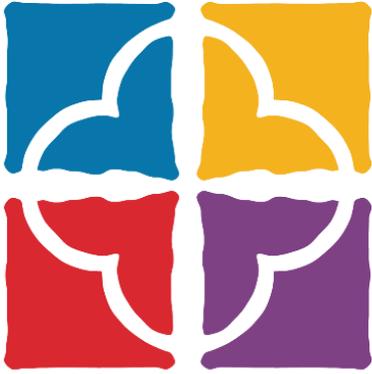


THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

*Secured life does not depend on possessions,
but on entrusting one's life to God*

July 31, 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; Bennett Draper, Acolyte

"Be Thou My Vision" -*Irish Folk Hymn, arr. Don Wyrzten*

"Grossienne No. 2" -*Erik Satie*

"You Are My All in All" -*Dennis Jernigan, arr. Mark Hayes*

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, 565 (Rise in body or spirit.) "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

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.

Silence is kept.

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:

**All: In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
we learn that God's love has no bounds.**

One: In Christ we are forgiven and are 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...

Ignite Moment

Sue Jelinek, Open and Affirming Team

Invitation to Lighthouse Youth & Family Services

(35-minute presentation in the Fellowship Hall following worship on August 14)

Praying Together and The Prayer of Jesus

Keith M. Haithcock

One: Gracious God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

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

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Luke 12.13-21 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Dale Clark

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?” ¹⁵ Then he told the crowd, “Avoid greed in all its forms. Your life isn’t made more secure by what you own—even when you have more than you need.”

¹⁶ Jesus then told them a parable in these words: “There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest.

¹⁷ ” ‘What will I do?’ the farmer mused. ‘I have no place to store my harvest.

¹⁸ I know! I’ll pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and goods will go there. ¹⁹ Then I’ll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!’

²⁰ ”But God said to the farmer, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?’

²¹ ”This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves, but are not rich 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

“ENTRUSTING GOD”
The Parable of the Rich Fool

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

“What Shall I Render to the Lord” -*Craig Courtney*

Jennie Malone

An Invitation to the Offering

Dale Clark

Every time we come to the moment of offering, it’s a defining moment.

There is an inner struggle between self-interest and generosity,
a pull between fear of the future and belief in God’s providence.

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.

Closing Song, 563 (Rise in body or spirit.)

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

A Singing Response

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

Song Leader 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.

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