

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE



ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LET'S GO DOWN TO THE RIVER AND PRAY

*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.*

August 7, 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.

To learn more about St. John Church visit the Welcome Table located in the back.

Gathering Music & Lighting Candles (10:20a)

Steve Milloy, piano; Bennett Draper, Acolyte

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" -William Moore, arr. Don Wyrzten

"How Can I Keep from Singing" -Robert Lowry, arr. Larry Shackley

"O How I Love Jesus" -19th c. American melody, arr. John Turner



Bookmark today's Bible reading: Luke 12.32-40, New Testament, [page 75](#)

Welcome, Call to Worship (10:30a)

Keith M. Haithcock

Singing Together

Jennie Malone, Vocal Leader

"Come, My People" -James F. D. Martin and Elizabeth Martin Cliff

Refrain:

*Come my people, welcome to worship. Love is in the warmth of this place.
Sing to God a song of thanksgiving, sing to God a song of praise!*

Gather in safety, welcomed in Christian love;
God touches us with strength from above. (*Refrain*)

Stories of Jesus show us the way to live,
how to serve others, how to forgive. *(Refrain)*

Stand with each other in one community,
working together God's reign to see. *(Refrain)*

Unison Prayer of the Day

Keith M. Haithcock

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Sovereign. Amen.**

Opening Song, 306 (Rise in body or spirit.) "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

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

"Make Us One"

Make us one, Lord, make us one, Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know we are one in you.

Praying Together

Keith M. Haithcock

One: O God of hope,

All: increase our faith.

Luke 12.32-40 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Jeff Draper

Red Bible, New Testament section page75

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“DRESS FOR ACTION AND LIGHT YOUR LAMPS”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone

“Unseen Blessings” -*Pamela Martin & Mark Hayes*

Opportunities & Church Matters

Keith M. Haithcock

Invitation to the Offering

Jeff Draper

What an abundance of gifts we have to offer:

musical talent, the melody of laughter, the use of our hands in cooking and repairs, the use of our minds in problem solving, curiosity, compassion, patience, urgency, spiritual reservoirs, financial resources, obedience, and courage to act.

All these gifts, and others which bear our personal marks, are symbolized in our offering for the work of the church and the glory of God.

Let us commit ourselves in service as we worship God with our offerings.

Unison Prayer of Dedication

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.

(Offering plates are located at the front and back of the Sanctuary.
You may also give online using the QR code.)



A Liturgy for the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

One: 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 down –
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 (*Silence as each one consumes bread and fruit of the vine*)

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.

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.**

Closing Song, 347 (Rise in body or spirit.) "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Gratitude and Going Forth

Jeff Draper

Thank you for coming together at St. John Church today. Worship is over and the service to the world begins. As we leave the Sanctuary remain masked and exit thru the accessible lobby or the Fairfield Avenue doors to join conversation outside. The pastor will greet you there.

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

Parting Music

Steve Milloy, piano

"Honor, Glory, and Praise" -*Anthony Giamanco*

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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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



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