A SEASON TO CELEBRATE – IGNITE 2022- Q4

THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

ST. JOHN

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP CEBRATION

Reformation Sunday – All Saints Sunday

October 30, 2022

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside everything that impedes us and the sin that so easily entangles us. -Hebrews 12.1b

Standing together without fear is an indication you will be saved.

-Paul, Philippians 1.28a

Welcome!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

Masks are optional.

Assistive listening devices are available in the back.

Offering plates are in the front and rear of the Church.

Gathering Music & Lighting Candles (10:20a)

Steve Phillips, piano; Bennett Draper, Acolyte

"Stand Up For Jesus" *-G.J. Webb*

Welcome & Call to Worship - Psalm 149.1-4

Keith M. Haithcock

Alleluia!
Sing to Our God a new song!
Sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel be glad in its Maker, let the children of Zion rejoice in their God.
Let them praise God's Name with festive dance,
let them sing praise with timbrel and harp.
For Our God loves the people and crowns the lowly with salvation.

Singing Together, 85

"I Woke Up This Morning"

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 Hymn, 439 (Rise in body or spirit.) "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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.

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, 474 (stanza 1 - sung twice) "I'm So Glad,…"

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

Philippians 1.12-29 Jeff Draper

I'm glad to announce to you, sisters and brothers, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the Good News. Consequently it has become clear throughout the Praetorium and everywhere else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of our sisters and brothers in Christ have been encouraged to speak the word of God more fearlessly.

It's true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others do so with the right intention. These latter act out of love, aware that I am here in the defense of the Good News. The others, who proclaim Christ for selfish or jealous motives, don't care if they make my chains heavier to bear.

All that matters is that in any and every way, whether from specious or genuine motives, Christ is being proclaimed! That is what brings me joy. Indeed, I will

continue to rejoice in the conviction that this will result in my salvation, thanks to your prayers and the support I receive from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. I firmly trust and anticipate that I will never be put to shame for my hopes; I have full confidence that, now as always, Christ will be exalted through me, whether I live or die.

For to me, "life" means Christ; hence, dying is only so much gain. If, on the other hand, I am to continue living on earth, that means productive toil for me – and I honestly don't know which I prefer. I'm strongly attracted to both: I long to be freed from this life and to be with Christ, for that is the far better thing; yet it's more urgent that I remain alive for your sakes. This fills me with the confidence that I will stay with you and persevere with you all, for the sake of your joy and your progress in the faith. My being with you once again should make you even prouder of me in Christ.

Conduct yourselves, then, in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ. If you do, whether I come and see you myself or hear about your behavior from a distance, it will be clear that you're standing firm in unity of spirit, and exerting yourselves with one accord for the faith of the Gospel, without being intimidated by your enemies. Standing together without fear is an indication that they will be destroyed and you will be saved. It's a divine signal that God – on behalf of our Savior – has given you the privilege of believing in and suffering for Christ.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon
"Living an *'All in'* Life: Stand Together" Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music
Stephanie Dalsfoist

"The Power of Your Love" -*Words and Music by Geoff Bullock, arr. Lloyd Larson*

Generosity Moment
'*All In Again'* program 2023 Sandy Kerlin

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.)

Praying Together — Keith M. Haithcock

One: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying God in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer

Necrology – Remembering those who passed since last All Saints Day

Closing Song, 499 (Rise in body or spirit.) — "For All the Saints"

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

Parting Music — Steve Phillips, piano

"Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" *-Garrett Parker*

The Annual Congregational Meeting will begin a few minutes after worship.
Use this QR code to access meeting documents.

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.

Copyrights, Notes & Acknowledgments: All items are used with permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense #A-712481.
Preface *Philippians 1.28a,* from *The Inclusive Bible* © 2007 by Priests for Equality*;* **Call to Worship,** Psalm 149.1-4, from *The Inclusive Bible* © 2007 by Priests for Equality*;* **Unison Prayer of the Day** from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press; p.846; **Praying Together** from *Feasting on the Words Worship Companion* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, p.251, adapted by Keith M. Haithcock; **Philippians 1.12-29** from *The Inclusive Bible © 2007 by Priests for Equality;* **An Invitation to the Offering** and **Unison Prayer of Dedication** from the *Book of Worship* © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, p.550-E and p.551-I.