Homecoming • Generosity Program - Week 3

November 12, 2023 | 10:30AM

Assistive listening devices are available at the Welcome Table.
Offering plates are in the front and back of the Church.
The People Rise in body or spirit at this sign:
The People's responses are in **bold print**.
Masks are optional.

Eliza Palm, acolyte; Jennie Malone, vocal leader & soloist; Steve Phillips, piano

MUSIC AS WE GATHER AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Honor, Glory and Praise - Anthony Giamanco

PRAYER OF THE DAY, GREETING, AND CALL TO WORSHIP — Keith M. Haithcock

Loving God, **whose provisions are generous, whose will for us is faithfulness in love of you, of neighbor, and of self. Keep us from withholding any part of ourselves from devotion to you, so we may genuinely welcome all, to your glory. Amen.**

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

Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you.
Instruct and admonish one another wisely.
Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms,
hymns and songs of the Spirit.
And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action,
do it in the name of Jesus our Savior,
giving thanks to God through Christ. (Colossians 3.16-17)

HYMN OF PRAISE, 425 — *For the Fruit of All Creation -AR HYD Y NOS*

OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD — Keith M. Haithcock

Why do we pass judgment? Why do we quarrel with those whose ways are different? How can we ignore the suffering of others? We have much to confess. *-Silence is kept-*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have ranked others by faulty standards. We have rejected those whom we think do not measure up, while overlooking our own faults. O God, save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

In the great design of the universe, we are equipped to receive forgiveness only when we extend it to others. Jesus points us to unlimited will to forgive—seventy times seven. **How amazing is God's love for us, and God's expectation of us!** Be free!

SONG OF ADORATION, 765 *Alleluia*

UNISON PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Jim Palm

Holy God, your word is strong and leads our feet to your holy dwelling place. Strengthen and guide us with your word through the power of your Holy Spirit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE READING Jim Palm

Moses reminds the Israelites of God's commandment to keep the Sabbath. Then Moses tells them to collect gifts of materials and invites all who are skilled to make the Tabernacle, its furnishings, and the priests' vestments. The Israelites bring the gifts that Moses requested. This shows God's normal way of channeling resources to God's work – by the gifts given from the people with a willing heart. God could cause the money and materials to appear by a miracle. Yet God chose to fund God's work through the willing gifts of God's people.

EXODUS 35.1-36.1 Beth Palm, Jim Palm, and Sue Jelinek

~ Moses called together the whole community of the Israelites and said to them, "This is what Our God has commanded you to do: work is to be done for six days, but the seventh day is your holy day, a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to Your God. Anyone who works on that day will be punished by death. You will not even light a fire in your dwellings on that day."

~ To the gathered Israelites, Moses continued, "Hear is what the Most High has commanded: Raise a contribution for Our God. Whoever is willing and generous is to bring a gift for the Holy One: gold, silver and bronze; indigo, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen; goat's hair, tanned sheep's skin, and fine leather; acacia wood; lamp

oil; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be set in the ephod and the breastpiece.

~ "All the skilled artisans among us are to make what Our God has commanded: the Tabernacle with its tent and covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; the Ark with its poles, the Covering, and the screen curtain; the table with its poles and all the vessels, and the Bread of the Presence; the lampstand for the light and its accessories—the lamps and the oil for the lampstand; the incense altar with its poles, the anointing oil, the fragrant incense and the hangings for the entryway to the Tabernacle; the altar for burnt offerings, its bronze grating, its poles and its utensils; the bronze basin and its stand; the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the courtyard entrance; the pegs for the Tabernacle and for the courtyard and their cords; and the finely-worked vestments for ministering in the sanctuary—both the sacred vestments for Aaron the priest, and the vestments for Aaron's heirs when they serve as priests."

~ All the gathered Israelites left Moses' presence, and those who were inspired in their minds and moved in their minds and moved in their spirits returned with freewill offerings to Our God for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its services and for the sacred garments. Women and men alike gave freely, bringing gold jewelry: brooches, earrings, finger rings, bracelets, necklaces, various gold objects—every one of them presented a donation to Our God. Those who had indigo, purple or scarlet yarn, or fine linen or goats' hair, or tanned rams' skins or fine leather, brought it. Those who were able brought silver or bronze as offerings to Our God, and those who had acacia wood suitable for this work brought it.

~ Skilled women set to spinning with their hands the indigo, purple and scarlet yarn, and the fine linen, and brought it, while other inspired women with practical knowledge spun the goats' hair.

The clan leaders brought onyx stones and other gems for mounting on the ephod and the breastpiece, and spices and oil for the lamps, and for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense. Every Israelite, woman or man, whose heart was moved to contribute to this work that Our God had commanded of Moses, brought items necessary for the work, and did so freely.

~ Moses said to the Israelites, "Listen: Our God has specially chosen Bazalel, begot of Uri of the tribe of Judah. Bezalel has been filled with the Spirit of God, and has been given skills and knowledge of every craft—in design work, in the working of gold and silver and copper, in the cutting and setting of precious stones, and in carving wood—indeed, in every skill. God has enabled both Bezalel and Oholiab, begot of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, to teach others, and to design every kind of

work that needs to be done by the carvers, the artisans, the embroiderers of indigo, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and the weavers—all sorts of skilled craft work and design work. Bezalel and Oholiab, and every woman and man whom Our God has blessed with skill and understanding, will do the work of building the sanctuary, according to the instructions that Our God has given." *-Silence is kept-*

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Time for Turning - Craig Courtney

SERMON *"GENERATE: MULTIPLYING OUR RESOURCES!""* Keith M. Haithcock

HYMN OF GUIDANCE, 497 (Stanzas 1, 2, and 4) *Guide My Feet -GUIDE MY FEET*

CREDO Jim Palm

We believe in the One whose image and likeness we possess;
the One who loves the world and shares humanity with us;
the One who reveals holiness and love to the human spirit;
the One who remains with us and guides us in righteousness,
reconciliation, and love for others and ourselves.

MORNING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US Keith M. Haithcock

Great Giver, in whom heaven is found, holy is your name.
May your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth.
Give us this day bread for our journey
and make us hungry to see the whole world nourished.
Forgive us and help us forgive one another.
Strengthen us for the challenges that lie ahead.
Let us hear your prophets and deliver us from our privilege.
For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need in the world and in the world to come. Amen.

CHURCH MATTERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

GIVE THANKS MOMENT *Theme: Give | Thanks* Jeff and Cherie Draper

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." -Luke 8.39 NRSV

AN INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS — Jim Palm

Your gift is needed for the church to be complete. Your gift is expressed through your personal investment of time and talents, but also through the money you received for using your gifts day by day in your work. What we invest in the church's work is an expression of our thanks to God for all the gifts we have received. Proverbs 11.24 says, *"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller."* (*The Message*)

(Offering plates are at the front and back of the Sanctuary. Use QR code to give online.)

DOXOLOGY — *Glory and Gratitude*

Glory and gratitude and praise now let earth to heaven raise.
Glory and gratitude and praise: these we offer to God.

UNISON BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS — Jim Palm

Thank you, God, for filling our lives with good things. The abundance of your gifts is beyond our counting. Bless all that we return for the work of ministry among us and beyond us. Amen.

COMMITMENT HYMN, 562 — *Take My Gifts -TALAVERA TERRACE*

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT — Theo Baldwin, Council member

In service to Christ, this intentionally inclusive congregation feeds the body, mind, and spirit, gives strength, and shines God's light wherever there is darkness.
We are a beacon of hope and inspiration. This ministry is open, affirming, inviting, and accessible to all. We extend love and extravagant welcome to all of God's children without judgment, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. We embolden everyone to live out their faith, to engage in ministry, to witness, and to serve. *-Silence is Kept-*

SEND OUT — Keith M. Haithcock

MUSIC AS WE GO FORTH

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

Return your Commitment Card & Thanksgiving Homecoming Meal

SUNDAY, NOV. 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 19, 2023 following worship.
Look for sign-up sheets at the Welcome Table or call Cherie Draper at 425.971.4703.

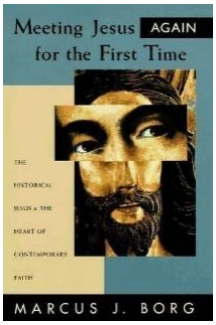
Gifts to the Manger for Washington UCC

St. John Church is participating in this annual campaign to raise funds to purchase food, clothing and toys for families in the Camp Washington.

Three ways to give:

1. Use special envelopes found under the Christmas Tree in the back corner of the Sanctuary or Accessible Lobby. Place donation in an offering plate.
2. Mail, payable to *St. John United Church of Christ* 520 Fairfield Ave, Bellevue, KY 41073
3. Give online at https://stjohnchurch.net/donate-online/ Choose: *Gifts to the Manger*.

Advent Zoom Book Study Join in as you can!



Thursday Nights 6:30-7:30p, Nov. 30 - Dec. 21 (4 sessions)
Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time by Marcus J. Borg
Sign-up at the Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary.
More info: Dean Griffith at **griffith@isoc.net** or 513.407.0831.

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THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE
ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. John United Church of Christ, 520 Fairfield Avenue • Bellevue, KY 41073
StJohnChurch.net • 859.261.2066