

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

January 29, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Chris Robinson

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Shout to the North”

GTG #319

Men of faith, rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness, complete

Chorus:

*Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is savior to all
Lord of heaven and earth*

Rise up, women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love

Chorus

Bridge:

We've been through fire; we've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of your name
We've fallen deeper in love with you
You've burned this truth on our lips

Chorus

Rise up, church, with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By God's grace again we'll fly

Chorus

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and hear the good news. No matter what is happening in your life, God's blessing and love is with you.

We're here, ready to listen, open to change, expecting to be blessed by our time together.

Come and hear what God wants you to do: live lives of justice and love and truth.

We're here, ready to listen, open to change, expecting to be blessed by our time together.

Come and get courage and strength to embrace and live out Kin-dom values rather than those of the world.

We're here, ready to listen, open to change, expecting to be blessed by our time together.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Micah 6:1 – 8

ANTHEM

“Children of the Heavenly Father”
(traditional Swedish; arr. Mack Wilberg)

SJU Chancel Choir

Children of the heavenly Father
Safely in his bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given

God his own doth tend and nourish
In his holy courts they flourish
From all evil things he spares them
In his mighty arms he bears them

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever
Unto them his grace he showeth
And their sorrows all he knoweth

Though he giveth or he taketh
God his children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Matthew 5:1 – 12

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Be-attitudes”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“**BLESSED ARE ...**”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Lord I Want to Be a Christian”

GTG #729

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”
(African-American spiritual)

GTG #700

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

BENEDICTION

Those who live lives pleasing to God shall not be moved. Go now to embrace the kingdom values—values of love, justice, and truth. Go now with God’s blessing, to live those values through the power of our challenging, faithful, loving, empowering God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Micah 6:1 – 8

6:1 Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

6:2 Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

6:3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

6:4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

6:5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

6:6 "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

6:7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1 – 12

5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

5:2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

