

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

February 12, 2023

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

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Liturgist: John Telis, with Jen McClurg

[CC] = closed-captioned

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Woke Up This Mornin’”

Karen Randall

Woke up this morning with my mind
And it was stayed, stayed on Jesus
Woke up this morning with my mind
And it was stayed, stayed on Jesus
Woke up this morning with my mind
And it was stayed, stayed on Jesus
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!

No condemnation with my mind
My mind was stayed, stayed on Jesus

Walking and talking with my mind
My mind was stayed, stayed on Jesus

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to celebrate our love for God, and to walk in God’s ways.

We will love God, and walk in God’s ways.

Love your God, and hold fast to God in everything you do.

We will love God, and walk in God’s ways.

OPENING PRAYER

**Come, Holy One: teach us your ways, lead us in your paths, guide us on our journey.
Speak to us your words of life, for you offer us direction and wholeness when we hear
your voice and follow.**

**You bless us with your love, shower us with your grace, and help us grow in faith. We
seek you, O God, with all our hearts. Be near us this day. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 119:1 – 8

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:21 – 37

ANTHEM

“Kumbaya”
Traditional spiritual; arr. Paul Sjolund

SJU Chancel Choir

Kumbaya my lord, kumbaya
Oh, Lord, Kumbaya

Someone’s praying, Lord
Someone’s crying, Lord
Someone’s singing, Lord
Sing Alleluia! Lord!

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Yes or No”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“**THE HEART OF THE MATTER**”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF
REFLECTION

“The Family Prayer Song”

TFWS #2188

Come and fill our homes with your presence
You alone are worthy of our reverence

Refrain:

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*

Lord, we vow to live holy
Bowling our knees to you only

Refrain

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Loving God, you have shown us your ways and led us in the paths of abundance. You have blessed us and kept us safe. In you we see that we are loved. We offer you our lives, for we have chosen to follow you. We offer you our praise, for your love is great. Use our gifts, our money, and our hearts to establish your realm of love upon the earth. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Draw the Circle Wide” (Bellevue Presbyterian Church;
video [CC])

BENEDICTION

As we journey out into the world, may each of us walk in the light of God’s ways, striving to be blameless and just. May our hearts be vessels of God’s love and may the Lord bless us in the land that we are entering. Do not be led off the Way that leads to life, and may the love of God be yours this day and forevermore. Go now in peace. 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

Psalm 119:1 – 8

- ¹ Our LORD, you bless everyone who lives right and obeys your Law.
- ² You bless all those who follow your commands from deep in their hearts
- ³ and who never do wrong or turn from you.
- ⁴ You have ordered us always to obey your teachings;
- ⁵ I don't ever want to stray from your laws.
- ⁶ Thinking about your commands will keep me from doing some foolish thing.
- ⁷ I will do right and praise you by learning to respect your perfect laws.
- ⁸ I will obey all of them! Don't turn your back on me.

Matthew 5:21 – 37

- ²¹ "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' ²² But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.
- ²³ "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.
- ²⁵ "When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny.
- ²⁷ "You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
- ³¹ "You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.' ³² But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.
- ³³ "You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.' ³⁴ But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. ³⁵ And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. ³⁷ Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

