



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH

A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

February 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Evann Ridgeway

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“My Lord! What a Morning”

GTG #352

Refrain:

*My Lord! What a morning;
My Lord! What a morning;
O my Lord! What a morning,
When the stars begin to fall,
When the stars begin to fall.*

You will hear the trumpet sound
To wake the nations under ground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

You will hear the sinner cry
To wake the nations under ground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

You will hear the Christian shout
To wake the nations under ground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved children of God, come to worship our creator and friend!

Here we are, from the soles of our feet to the souls within us. We are here to worship.

Come, siblings in Christ, and attend this gathering with your body, mind, and spirit. Be fully present with us today.

From head to toe, inside and out, from our prayers to our thoughts to our dreams, we are present to worship.

And if our minds wander, our bodies fidget, or our spirits grow drowsy, what shall we do?

We shall worship in wandering, fidgeting, and drowsiness, for we can find God in our very breath. Come now, let us worship!

OPENING PRAYER

God of transcendence and incarnation, you sent Jesus to experience life in spirit and life in a human body; to become God-in-flesh so we could relate to one another in suffering, compassion, life, and death. Therefore, we find you in both our seen and unseen realities. We find you in our regular human activities of sleeping, eating, and drinking, and also in the deeply spiritual experience of living a conscious life on earth. Today we gather so we might worship and encounter you both in flesh and spirit. You care about us, from our cells and tissue to our mystical moments of connection and community. Meet us here, in body and spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:15 – 17; 3:1 – 7

ANTHEM

“Here’s One”

SJU Chancel Choir

Traditional spiritual; arr. Mark Hayes

Talk about a child who do love Jesus

Here's one, here's one

Ever since I heard the gospel story

I been walkin' up the road to glory

Talk about a child who's been forgiven

Talk about a child who's been converted

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1 – 11

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Lenten Coin Calendar

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“WHEN WE FALL”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF
REFLECTION

“Take Time to Be Holy”

UM #395

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord
Abide in him always, and feed on his word
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak
Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be
Thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see

Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide
And run not before him, whatever betide
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul
Each thought and each motive, beneath his control
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Great and righteous God, we bring the gifts of who we are, and what we have, together as a tangible representation of our commitment to your work here on earth. We know you are interested in the flourishing of life and creation, and we are a part of this creation project when we work together. So take these gifts and offerings and multiply them so love and justice might expand among us and in our community. Thank you for the abundance you already share with us each day because you are a faithful God. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

GTG #757

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease
A world that was created for a harmony of peace

May we in service to our God act out the living word
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard
As steward of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord

BENEDICTION

Written by Carolyn W. Dandridge and Catrinia N. Harrison, The Africana Worship Book Year A, edited by Valerie Bridgeman Davis and Safiyah Fosua (Discipleship Resources, 2006), 198.

The Scriptures say that we need more than bread for our lives; we must feed on every word of God. Go, feast on the words of the Most High, Creator God. Be overwhelmed by God's goodness and let your life be your praise, until we meet again. 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

Genesis 2:15 – 17; 3:1 – 7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ²The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵for

God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1 – 11

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '⁷Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

