



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

March 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE
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Liturgist: Gayelle Sama

[CC] = closed-captioned

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

GTG #39

Great is thy faithfulness, o God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with thee
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

Draw as close as you dare, children of God. Press into community and fellowship.

For Christ is found, not only in solitude but in the noise and chaos of the crowd.

Draw close and press in, for together in worship, we truly become the body of Christ.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

There is a time to find God by ourselves and a time to find God together.

We gather as a community of saints to praise and worship our God in unity. Come, let us worship!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you sent Jesus to walk among the crowds, to experience the dust and sweat of humanity, and to witness human life on earth. And even though he took time for himself to be alone, Jesus met us wherever we gathered. Even now, you are faithful to meet us when we gather in community, whether virtually or in person, in quiet prayer or in loud laughter. When we combine our gifts, personalities, and quirks, we can see a fuller picture of who you are. So open our eyes to seeing you in one another today as we worship. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 16:1 – 13

ANTHEM

“I Believe”

(Women of the Basilica of Saint Mary Cathedral Choir; video [CC])

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1 – 15

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Lenten Coin Calendar

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“A NEW WAY TO SEE”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

TFWS #2128

Come and find the quiet center
In the crowded life we lead.
Find the room for hope to enter,
Find the frame where we are freed.
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes that we may see.
All the things that really matter
Be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us
Cools the heat and slows the pace.
God it is who speaks and names us
Knows our being, touches base.
Making space within our thinking
Lifting shades to show the sun.
Raising courage when we're shrinking
Finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
Open to each other's pain.
Let our loves and fears unravel,
Celebrate the space we gain.
There's a place for deepest dreaming.
There's a time for heart to care.
In the Spirit's lively scheming
There is always room to spare.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Generous life-giver, thank you for the opportunity to bring our offerings together. This is one way we can participate in community restoration and healing, for when we combine our gifts, we can serve you more effectively than if we act alone. Take these gifts as offerings of love and edification. Help us steward them responsibly so the crowds of our community may be blessed by our ministries. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Holy Ground”

TFWS #2272

We are standing on holy ground
And I know that there are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now
We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

BENEDICTION

Crowd of saints, you have gathered, pressed in, joined your spirits, and received the blessings of the body of Christ. Go forth in the spirit of gentleness to show respect to humankind around you. Go forth in boldness to draw your healthy boundaries and live a peaceful life. 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

1 Samuel 16:1 – 13

16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

16:2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

16:3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

16:4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

16:5 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

16:6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD."

16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

16:10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

16:11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

16:12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."

16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

John 9:1 – 15

9:1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

9:2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

9:4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

9:6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,

9:7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

9:8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

9:9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

9:10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

9:11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

9:12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

9:13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

9:14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

9:15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

