



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

**March 5, 2023**

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

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Liturgist: Robin Dietzway

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**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

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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

Come, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,

**In God's house, you will find rest.**

Take the yoke of Christ upon you, and learn from him;

**For Christ is gentle and humble in heart. We will find rest for our souls.**

For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

**Under this light and easy yoke there is rest for the weary and sleep for the exhausted.**

Come and worship. Find warmth and care under the wide wings of our Mother God.

**We are a people in need of a soft place to land.**

Come and worship. Be filled and restored by the healing breath of God's Spirit.

**Amen. Let us worship together.**

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION/UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

The storms in our times are stronger and more frequent. Climate change has shifted patterns, causing suffering and loss of life. Let us confess our human contribution to this crisis.

**Creator God, we delight in the universe you created. Each insect, plant, mammal, fish, reptile, and person proves your glory and creative power. But people have not cared for this world, and the destruction continues.**

**As a planet, we consume more than we need. We purchase goods obtained through the destruction of forests and displacement of people. We waste gas, water, and food at unsustainable rates. We resist measures to change our habits or consumption. We make money from investments in destructive industries choosing profits over people. We ignore rising seas, even as they endanger the lives of coastal dwellers.**

**We choose the convenience of fast fashion, fast food, and disposable containers, instead of reducing our consumption. We deny signs we must change our behavior and ignore the prophets in our midst. We do not hold our leaders accountable for taking action. In the face of such a cataclysmic crisis, we repent. We turn from our wasteful ways, and we start again. Have mercy on us, and on our planet. Amen.**

*(silence is kept)*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Like the growth of a forest rising from ashes, our world is made to renew life. When we repent for our sin, God is faithful to heal, to mend, to restore. Receive this pardon and be at peace.

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12:1 – 4a

#### ANTHEM

“Hear My Voice, O Lord”

SJU Chancel Choir

*Jayne Southwick Cool*

Hear my voice, O Lord, hear when evil befalls  
When I ask for mercy, answer my call  
Lead me on a level path; teach me your way  
Do not hide your face from me, for it is your face that I seek

The Lord is my light and my salvation  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life  
The Lord is my strength, my rock and shelter  
My God in whom I trust

In the day of trouble, keep my heart from fear, calm my heart  
When I feel forsaken, remind me, Lord, you are near  
I will always praise you, giving thanks with a joyful song  
For I have seen, O Lord, your goodness, and I will serve you all my life long

#### SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1 – 17

#### TIME WITH CHILDREN

Lenten Coin Calendar

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

“What Did You Discover Last Week?”

#### MESSAGE

“GOING AND GROWING”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

#### CALL TO GENEROSITY

Come, all who are weary, and be fed by the bread of life. Let your thirst be quenched by the cup of blessing. Jesus prepares a feast of love for us because he knows our human frailties. His gift of body and blood refreshes our hearts as we are reminded of his life and sacrifice. Come and receive the gift of life. The feast is prepared, and all are welcome.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to The Lord's Table

Come, all who are weary, and be fed by the bread of life. Let your thirst be quenched by the cup of blessing. Jesus prepares a feast of love for us because he knows our human frailties. His gift of body and blood refreshes our hearts as we are reminded of his life and sacrifice. Come and receive the gift of life. The feast is prepared, and all are welcome.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You made a covenant with our ancestor Abraham, promising to make of him a great nation, and a blessing to all the families of the earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus, not to condemn, but to save, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life, born again from above by water and the Spirit.

When Jesus faced the hardest moments of his life, the night before gave up himself up for us, he gathered for supper with his disciples and friends, feasting on bread and wine. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus our Rabbi took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one us with Christ and one with your church in all the world.

By faith, make us children of Abraham, justified by the righteousness and grace of Christ, so that we may share the blessings of your covenant people.

We pray these and all things in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together...

The Lord's Prayer...

The Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

COMMUNION SONG #1 "He Came Down That We May Have Love"

*(traditional song from Cameroon)*

(Westwood Children's Choir; video) and  
Oonte OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) Choir from Namibia; video; [CC]

COMMUNION SONG #2

"Gather Us In"

TFWS #2036

Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water  
Here we will eat the bread of new birth  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion  
Give us to eat the bread that is you  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining  
Not in some heaven, light years away  
But here in this place the new light is shining  
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day  
Gather us in and hold us forever  
Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, our healer, you have nourished our bodies with the bread of life and cup of blessing. Our weary bodies and minds are renewed, and our spirits are filled with hope that your work on earth is not complete. As we turn to face the world around us, bringing your light and love to our communities, we take this energy with us. We are prepared and equipped to bring heaven to earth, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

GTG #687

Our God, our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come  
Our shelter from the stormy blast  
And our eternal home

Beneath the shadow of thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure  
Sufficient is thine arm alone  
And our defense is sure

Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received its frame  
From everlasting thou art God  
To endless years the same

A thousand ages in thy sight  
Are like an evening gone  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun

Time, like an ever rolling stream  
Bears all our years away  
They fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the opening day

Our God, our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come  
Be thou our guard while life shall last  
And our eternal home

BENEDICTION

Lord, as we go from this place, and grow in our discipleship, walk with us. Give us renewed confidence in your will and transform our lives that we may serve you better. Go now in peace, with God’s blessing. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
accompanist

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*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 12:1 – 4a**

12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

12:2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

12:4a So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

### **John 3:1 – 17**

3:1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

3:2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

3:3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

3:5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

3:6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3:7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

3:8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

3:9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

3:10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

3:11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

3:12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

