

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

May 14, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE
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Liturgist: Andrew Love

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

GTG #14

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies
For the love, which from our birth, over and around us lies
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, we ask your help in our daily lives.

Lord, please help us.

Lord, we ask your help for our families and neighbors.

Lord, please help them.

Lord, we ask your help for our world.

Lord, please help us all. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1

Psalm 66:8 – 20

ANTHEM

“Just a Little Talk with Jesus”

SJU Men’s Choir

Cleavant Derricks; arr. Mosie Lister

I once was lost in sin but Jesus took me in
And then a little light from heaven filled my soul
It bathed my heart in love and wrote my name above
And just a little talk with Jesus makes me whole

Refrain:

*Now let us have a little talk with Jesus
Let us tell Him all about our troubles
He will hear our faintest cry and He will answer by and by
Now when you feel a little prayer wheel turning
And you know a little fire is burning
You will find a little talk with Jesus makes it right*

I may have doubts and fear, my eyes be filled with tears
But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night
I go to Him in prayer; He knows my every care
And just a little talk with Jesus makes it right

Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING 2

John 14:15 – 21

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Another Word for Help”

Pamela Love

MESSAGE

“**HELP IS ON THE WAY**”

Pamela Love

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

UM #117

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

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Lord, we thank you for the many ways you have helped us in the past, how you assist us now, and will care for us in the future. We ask that you show us how to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the church to help those in need. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

GTG #366

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise

BENEDICTION

Now, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, 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 66:8 – 20

66:8 Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

66:9 who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

66:10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

66:11 You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

66:12 you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

66:13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,

66:14 those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

66:15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

66:16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

66:17 I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

66:18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

66:19 But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

66:20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

John 14:15-21

14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

14:17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

14:18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

14:19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

14:20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

14:21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

