

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

May 21, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER // 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

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

GTG #611

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout to God with songs of great joy!

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

God has made us whole.

God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.

Come, let us celebrate the love of God!

Let us praise God’s name and serve God joyfully. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING 1

Psalm 68:1 – 10, 32 – 35

ANTHEM

“Down to the River to Pray”

SJU Chancel Choir

Traditional; arr. Sheldon Curry

As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way

Oh sisters, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Oh, sisters, let's go down
Down to the river to pray

As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way

Oh brothers, let's go down...
Oh fathers, let's go down...
Oh mothers, let's go down...

SCRIPTURE READING 2

1 Peter 4:12 – 14; 5:6 – 11

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“When Worries Build”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“CASTING YOUR CARES”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Lord, Be Glorified”

TFWS #2150

In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today

In our homes...
In your church...
In your world...

CALL TO GENEROSITY

God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. We push back our inclination to be more generous because of our anxiety about the economy. We hold back on sharing our faith and advocating for compassion and justice out of anxiety about the division in our world and in our neighborhood. We hold back on inviting neighbors to church out of anxiety about how they might view the church right now. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast the anxiety on Jesus, for the one the tomb could not hold can carry our anxiety with ease. In the name of Jesus, who broke the hold of death once and for all. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

GTG #2151

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me (*sing 3x*)
Singing Glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me!

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me (*sing 3x*)
Singing Glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me!

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me (*sing 3x*)
Singing Glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me!

BENEDICTION

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2022.

Easter people, God has done great things for you! Go, now, carrying the story of God's work in your lives that in all things, good and difficult, you can ask with confidence, "How will God show up now?" knowing all the while that God will, indeed, take all our caring and point us toward joy. 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 68:1 – 10, 32 – 35

68:1 Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

68:2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

68:3 But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

68:4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds--his name is the LORD-- be exultant before him.

68:5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

68:6 God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

68:7 O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah

68:8 the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

68:9 Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

68:10 your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

68:32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, Selah

68:33 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

68:34 Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

68:35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

1 Peter 4:12 – 14; 5:6 – 11

4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

4:13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.

5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

5:8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

5:9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

5:10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

5:11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

