

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

**June 18, 2023**

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Pamila Brown

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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

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

GTG #610

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease  
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive  
The mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe

My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above the church in earth and heaven

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome, you who are called as disciples of Christ! Is anything too wonderful for our God?

**Nothing is too wonderful for God who saves us and calls us!**

We remember the goodness of God who promised Abraham a multitude of descendants and then showed up at Abraham’s door to announce that the promise would be fulfilled.

**Nothing is too wonderful for God who promises and fulfills promises!**

We remember the compassion of Jesus who noticed the distress of his neighbors and acted to bring them healing and wholeness.

**Nothing is too wonderful for God who heals and restores the distressed!**

We remember the invitation the Spirit extends to us to join in God’s work of compassionate community building.

**Nothing is too wonderful for God who empowers us to transform strangers into community through active love.**

As we worship, may we receive the promise, the compassion, and the invitation to be disciples of Christ who join in God’s work of making disciples for the transformation of our households, our community, and our world.

**Because nothing is too wonderful for our God! Amen.**



Go to the world! Go into every place;  
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace;  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
The nights of tears give way to joyful day.  
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia.

Go to the World! Go as the ones I send,  
For I am with you till the age shall end,  
When all the host of glory cry, "Amen." Alleluia

## BENEDICTION

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, December 2022.*

As you go from this place, go together and trust that when we follow the joy of God's call into the unknown, God will equip us and empower us for the work ahead because nothing is too wonderful for God! 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 18:1 - 15, (21:1 - 7)**

18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

18:2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

18:3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant.

18:4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

18:5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on--since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes."

18:7 Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.

18:8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

18:9 They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent."

18:10 Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"

18:13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'

18:14 Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son."

18:15 But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

21:1 The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised.

21:2 Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him.

21:3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

21:4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

21:5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

21:6 Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."

21:7 And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

### **Matthew 9:35–10:8, (9 – 23)**

9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

9:38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

10:1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

10:2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

10:3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

10:4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans,

10:6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

10:7 As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'

10:8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

10:9 Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,

10:10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food.

10:11 Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave.

10:12 As you enter the house, greet it.

10:13 If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

10:14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.

10:15 Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

10:16 "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

10:17 Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues;

10:18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles.

10:19 When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time;

10:20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

10:21 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;

10:22 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

10:23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

