

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

June 4, 2023

TRINITY SUNDAY // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

All music used by permission. CCLI License #1325764; CCLI Streaming License #20116748

Liturgist: Robin Dietzway

[CC] = closed-captioned

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

GTG #20

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all*

Each little flower that opens
Each little bird that sings
God made their glowing colors
God made their tiny wings

Refrain

The purple-headed mountain
The river running by
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter
The pleasant summer sun
The ripe fruits in the garden
God made them, every one

Refrain

God gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell
How great is God almighty
Who has made all things well

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

~ written by Rev. J. Lee Hill, Senior Pastor

Let us worship the Triune God.

**Let us worship the One who spoke in the beginning
and created something out of nothing.**

Let us worship the Triune God.

Let us worship the One who took on the clothing of humanity to set those who were oppressed free.

Let us worship the Triune God.

Let us worship the One whose Spirit rests continually upon us, calling us from sorrow-filled endings to bright new beginnings.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us. Before God and God's people, I confess that I have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustice I see and declaring God's vision.

Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God's people, made by God and chosen as witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy.

Remind me, God, that you have made me for your service and recharge me with your Word. Renew us, God. Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.

(silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God has promised that whenever we repent and seek a new union with God, forgiveness is ours. That promise comes true now. Sisters and brothers, know that in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 13:11 – 13

ANTHEM

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
John Rutter

SJU Chancel Choir

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 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 each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:16 - 20

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“GO!”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

CALL TO GENEROSITY

God of all creation, we offer our gifts in gratitude this morning – not just for what you do, but for who you are. You are with us in the person of the Father, the God above us. You come to meet us as the Son, as God beside us. You empower us to do the work of kin-dom-building by the Holy Spirit – God within us, providing strength and boldness that we would never find on our own. May these gifts be tools that make the transformation of the world a reality. We pray in the name of one God. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord's Table

<https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/lgbtq-related/> adapted by Rev. Kanahan for June 4, 2023.

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

Let us give thanks to God who takes risks for love.

For the courage of the Holy that lives in us, we give thanks.

Throughout history, O God, we have struggled to remember who we are. When forces of evil work to shape our understanding of you, ourselves, and one another, we get lost. We hide parts of ourselves. We keep the things that make us vulnerable buried deep. We cling to security and safety. We turn from meaningful connection with one another. We take cover under the patterns of our culture.

But you have created us for so much more. In Jesus we saw a life lived in all its potential. Life that is abundant, life that is collective, life that is tender and full, and so we honor Him, saying:

Holy! Holy! Holy Lord!

God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

But we saw, also, in him, what can happen to a life when power and norms are exchanged for truth, collective justice, and integrity. And so we wonder. If we live true to our authentic selves, will we be condemned?

In proclaiming truths that confront unjust power, do we stand a chance of survival? How will it go for us, if we are willing to risk everything for love? You have never promised us safety, but you have shown us what is possible.

The Spirit brings new life even to places of death. Jesus, knowing the dangers ahead, kept proclaiming his truth. There was nothing worth his silence, not even his life. And so he turned to community for companionship in the struggle.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around table with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

In Jesus, God came out to the world, challenging systems and norms. And though great violence was done and unfathomable loss was felt, Love presses on still today, transforming life after life. Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

And so we pray, pour out your Spirit on us gathered here, and on this bread and this cup. Make them be for us, the body and blood of Christ. Through these gifts, unite us with you and all, and fill our hearts with courage to live boldly for one another, proclaiming the truths that set us free. Blessed be this meal of hope. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer...

The Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

COMMUNION SONG “For Everyone Born” (Beyond the Walls Choir; video; [CC])

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we give you thanks for the invitation to your Table. No matter who we are, no matter our struggles or regrets, we are never turned away. Like all the gifts you give us, may we never be content keeping them to ourselves. May this meal compel us to invite others – especially those who are turned away from the tables of their families, their churches, their communities – to our own tables, overflowing with love and nourishment abundant. Amen.

CLOSING SONG “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth” GTG #747

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give
To make of all the earth a better place to live (*sing 2x*)

The angels are not sent into our world of pain
To do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name
That falls to you and me and all who are made free
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today

BENEDICTION

As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

As people of faith we now return to the world.

Go out to share the story of faith, the story of life, with the world around you.

We share the faith in word and in deed, in speech and in action.

As you go out to give a living witness, as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world, go knowing that God goes with you, sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

Thanks be to God! 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

2 Corinthians 13:11 – 13

13:11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13:13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Matthew 28:16 – 20

28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

28:17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

