

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

July 9, 2023

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

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Liturgist: Debbie Parker

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

GTG #475

Come, thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by thy help I'm come
And I hope, by thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart; O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day to worship!

But we bring with us heavy burdens which weigh us down.

We gather this day to praise God!

But our hearts ache inside us and we feel we can go no further.

Come all who are burdened and who feel weighed down. Come to Jesus.

Lord Jesus, take our burdens and heal our spirits. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

In times of weakness and hour of need, yours is the strength by which we carry on, the shoulder we rest our head upon. When our load is heavy and too much to bear, yours are the arms stretched out to help us the grace that we depend on.

In times of weakness and hour of need, your voice is heard, ‘Come... find rest.’ This is grace divine, the path we tread to wholeness of body and spirit, the path that leads to you, and for which we offer our offering of praise. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1

Romans 7:15 – 25a

ANTHEM

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

GTG #835

I am weak, but thou art strong.
Jesus, keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, dear Lord, close to thee.

Refrain:

*Just a closer walk with thee.
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

Through this world of toil and snares
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Refrain

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more.
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING 2

Matthew 11:16 – 19, 25 – 30

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“**GROWING: TAKING THE YOKE**”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Give Thanks”

TFWS #2036

Chorus

*Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.*

(sing twice)

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong".
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us".

(sing twice)

Chorus

CALL TO GENEROSITY

As you have received each one of us, O Lord, receive also these gifts that we offer to you that your love may be made known through ministries of peace, hope and justice. AMEN.

CLOSING SONG

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

GTG #465

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

BENEDICTION

As you go from this place, remember: Christ offers his yoke to you, promising to come alongside and stick with you no matter where your journey takes you. So when your week gets hard, when you feel like you are at your wits' end, when the overwhelm is too much, Christ holds out his yoke to you. Will you take it? 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

Romans 7:15 – 25a

7:15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

7:16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.

7:17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

7:19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.

7:20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

7:21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

7:22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,

7:23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

7:25a Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Matthew 11:16 – 19, 25 – 30

11:16 "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

11:17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon';

11:19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

11:25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

11:26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

11:27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

11:28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

