

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

August 13, 2023

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

CELEBRATION OF VBS 2023 “HERO HOTLINE”

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Liturgist: Guy Moody

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

TFWS #2151

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, February 2023.

Beloved disciples, welcome. As we gather, what are you seeking?

We seek God’s presence all around us.

Beloved disciples, if God’s presence is all around us, what are you seeking?

We seek to recognize God’s presence among us.

Beloved disciples, if God is among you, what are you seeking?

We seek God in the faces of family, friends, and neighbors.

Beloved disciples, if God is in the face of your neighbor, what are you seeking?

We seek God in the search and the work for peace and wholeness for all God’s creation.

As we gather today, may we meet God in our seeking and in our finding.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Written by Tony Peterson, The Africana Worship Book, Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 91.

**Lord, if it's you, we need to hear from you.
When we are alone. When we go away to pray. When we have little faith.
When we are battered by the waves. When the wind is against us.
When we get in the boat. When we're terrified by our ghosts.
When we seek you on the mountain. When we cry out in fear.
When we start walking on water. When we begin to sink. When we are far from land.**

**Lord, if it's you, speak to us, calm our fears, calm our storms.
Strengthen our resolve. Remind us who you are. Walk to us.
Call to us. Save us. Reach out your hand and catch us.
Quiet the wind around us.**

Lord, if it's you, we worship you for "Truly you are the Son of God." Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14:22 – 33

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Lamb"

Destini Nyorkor
soloist

Theodore Chanler, music; William Blake, poem

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead
Gave thee clothing of delight
Softest clothing, woolly, bright
Gave thee such a tender voice
Making all the vales rejoice?

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee
He is called by thy name
For He calls Himself a Lamb
He is meek and He is mild
He became a little child
I a child, and thou a lamb
We are called by His name
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14:19

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

"Superhero"

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
Ingrid Sampson, guitar

MESSAGE

"CALLED TOGETHER TO SERVE GOD"

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

VBS 2023 "HOTLINE HERO" SLIDESHOW

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Forgiving God, the first offering you ask for is the giving of ourselves, loving you and others boldly, refusing to let our fear of the storms around us keep us from taking risks. Forgive us for times when you have called us to leave our places of comfort, and

we've ignored the call. Forgive us when our giving has not grown beyond our safety zone, but you blessed our gifts and us anyway. For those times when we dared to put our foot outside the boat and then sank up to our knees, thank you for not taking your hand away. For all this, we give thanks in the holy name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Standing on the Promises”

GTG #838

Standing on the promises of Christ my King
Through eternal ages let his praises ring
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing

Standing on the promises of God my Savior

Standing, standing

I'm standing on the promises of God

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living word of God I shall prevail
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, February 2023

Beloved family of Christ, the search is not over. The seeking has only just begun. Yet through it all and in it all, God is with us. May we go today trusting that we are found in God and living so that God is found in us. 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

Matthew 14:22 – 33

14:22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

14:23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

14:24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

14:25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

14:26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

14:28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

14:29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

14:30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

14:32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

14:33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Romans 14:19

14:19 "So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up."

