

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

September 10, 2023

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

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

Liturgist: Edna Quoie

[CC] = closed-captioned

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

GTG #394

Christ is made the sure foundation
Christ the head and cornerstone
Chosen of the Lord and precious
Binding all the church in one
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence along

To this temple, where we call you
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay
Come, with all your lovingkindness
Hear your people as we pray
And your fullest benediction shed within these walls today

Here bestow on all your servants
What they seek from you to gain
What they gain from you forever
With the blessed to retain
And hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign

Laud and honor to the Father
Laud and honor to the Son
Laud and honor to the Spirit
Ever three and ever one
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this community of faith.

We come seeking hope and courage for the future.

Here you will find peace, hope, love and joy.

We come weighed down by difficulties in our lives.

Here you will find Jesus who will take your burdens on himself.

Lord, we come to you this day in need of your mercy and love. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of mercy and light, you have called us out of the darkness of our lives into the light of your love. Your love encourages and sustains us always. We praise and thank you for all the blessings we have received throughout our lives. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8 – 14

ANTHEM

“Kumbaya”

SJU Chancel Choir

Traditional spiritual; arr. Paul Sjolund

Kumbaya my lord, kumbaya
Oh, Lord, Kumbaya

Someone's praying, Lord
Someone's crying, Lord
Someone's singing, Lord
Sing Alleluia! Lord!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:15 – 20

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

**“THE JOURNEY TOWARD
BELOVED COMMUNITY”**

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG
OF REFLECTION

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

GTG #203

Chorus:

Jesu, Jesu

Fill us with your love

Show us how to serve

The neighbors we have from you

Kneels at the feet of his friends
Silently washes their feet
Master who acts as a slave to them

Chorus

Neighbors are wealthy and poor
Varied in color and race
Neighbors are near us and far away

Chorus

These are the ones we should serve
These are the ones we should love
All these are neighbors to us and you

Chorus

Loving puts us on our knees
Willing to wash others' feet
This is the way we should live like you

Chorus

CALL TO GENEROSITY

These offerings we present to you, O Lord. May they be used for ministries of love and reconciliation through this community of faith. AMEN.

CLOSING SONG

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

GTG #754

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some
To love them as we find them, or as they may become

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need
Who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

BENEDICTION

You are prepared to walk away from the darkness into the light. Go into this world confident in Christ's love and God's eternal presence with you. Go to be a witness for good and a bearer of peace to all you meet. Go in peace! 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 13:8 – 14

13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

13:9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

13:11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

13:12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

13:13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

13:14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15 – 20

18:15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.

18:16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

18:17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

18:18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

18:19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

