

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

October 22, 2023

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Patsy Nwagbaraocha

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“How Firm a Foundation”

GTG #463

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!

CALL TO WORSHIP

~ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023.

We gather today to remember and proclaim that we are God's people.

We are God's people! God's presence is among us!

Like Moses, we seek an encounter with God's goodness.

God, show us your goodness that we may glorify you in all that we do.

God's goodness passes by us every day in the gracious gifts of creation and in the faces of our neighbors.

God, help us notice your goodness in everything and everyone that we meet.

When we notice God's goodness all around us, we recognize this truth: all things are God's.

Let us give to God the things that are God's! Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.

Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 33:12 – 23

ANTHEM

“I'll Follow My Lord/Santo, Santo, Santo”

SJU Chancel Choir

(Philippine and Argentine melodies)

Allen Pote

Kay Yahweh ako, mananagan

I'll follow my Lord, to Jesus I'll cling

I'll follow my Lord, my love I will bring

Santo, santo, santo

Mi corazon te adora

Mi corazon te sabe decir

Santo eres, Señor

Holy, holy, holy

My heart, my heart adores you

My heart is glad to say the words:

You are holy, Lord

READING #2

Matthew 22:15 – 22

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

MESSAGE

“ADJUSTING OUR VISION”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG

OF REFLECTION

“More Precious Than Silver”

TFWS #2065

(Sing 3 times)

Lord, you are more precious than silver

Lord, you are more costly than gold

Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds

And nothing I desire compares with you.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Lord, we dedicate our all to you; not just the money that we offer at this time, but our thoughts, our plans, our time, our dreams, our days. It's all yours, God. It always was. Help us to rejoice in that. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Liturgist) God, we know that you see everything that happens in this world; nothing we pray about is news to you. Yet still we pray, asking that your peace and wisdom rest on us, and your presence transform our lives.

(Men) We pray for those across the world and in our communities who are scared today; for those who face violence, because of where they live or where they work or who you have created them to be; for those whose future seems dark; for those whose anxiety eats away at them and who cannot find peace. Spirit, living flame, encourage them.

(Women) We pray for those who hurt today; for the sick, the hungry, the abused, the grieving, the lonely. We pray for those who struggle with pain in body or mind or spirit. We pray for the compassionate, who hurt because the world hurts. Jesus, healer, comfort them.

(All) We pray for those who woke up angry today. We pray for those who feel excluded, overlooked, trapped. We pray for those who feel entitled, unappreciated, out of control. We pray that where anger leads to pain, you would bring peace, but that where anger leads to justice, you would bring wisdom. Jesus, table-turner, guide them.

(Liturgist) We pray for those who are full of hope today. We pray for those who are beginning new relationships or careers or working to get clean. We pray for those who see sprouts of your kingdom poking up through cracks in the sidewalk. We pray for those who are a light in the darkness. Strengthen them, Holy Spirit.

These prayers we lift you always, that we might be attuned to the needs of your children. We also lift to you now the specific concerns of this day:

(Pastor) God, there is much we have forgotten to pray for today, yet we know that nothing escapes your notice. Direct our eyes this week, we pray, that we might come to know your heart more fully.

(All) We pray now as you taught your disciples, saying,

“Our Father....”

CLOSING SONG

“This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

BENEDICTION

The glory of the Lord is all around you, here in this sanctuary, but it will glimmer also in your house, in the office, in the car, at the grocery store, at the gym, in the doctor's office:

everywhere the children of God go, so does the image of God.

So go, bearing invisible glory to make you brave; the love of God, to make you strong, the peace of Christ, to make you kind, and the power of the Spirit, to make you alive, today and tomorrow and all the days to come.

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

Exodus 33:12 – 23

33:12 Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'

33:13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."

33:14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

33:15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here.

33:16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

33:17 The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

33:18 Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray."

33:19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

33:20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live."

33:21 And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock;

33:22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by;

33:23 then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Matthew 22:15 – 22

22:15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.

22:16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.

22:17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"

22:18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?

22:19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

22:20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"

22:21 They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

22:22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

