

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

October 29, 2023

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

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Liturgist: Pamela Love

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

GTG #1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

As we gather to worship today, turn to a neighbor and say to each other, “Welcome! I am glad you are here!”

Welcome! I am glad you are here!

Now, turn to another neighbor and say to each other, “You are loved by God and by me!”

You are loved by God and by me!

Beloved children of God, how can we love each other today?

By meeting and listening and caring for one another face-to-face.

Beloved children of God, how can we love God today?

CALL TO GENEROSITY

God of unimaginable love, you have given us so much and asked so little. In the words of Jesus, we have been commanded to love you with our whole being, love our neighbors, and love ourselves. For that simple price, you have given us everything and promised to love us and not desert us. It is a covenant more generous than anyone could imagine, and yet how often we fail to keep the bargain. As we dedicate our gifts this morning to bringing acts of love, may we also resolve to better keep our side of your covenant of love. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Pass It On”

UMH #572

It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread God's love to everyone
You want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring
You want to pass it on

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found
You can depend on God, it matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountaintop
I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on

BENEDICTION

Go to celebrate the God whose love is our home forever.

God's love goes with us!

Go to follow Christ's example in loving God, self, and neighbor.

God's love goes with us!

Go with the Holy Spirit to change the world with love.

God's love goes with us!

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

Leviticus 19:1 – 2, 15 – 18

19:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

19:2 Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

19:15 You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor.

19:16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

19:17 You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself.

19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 22:34 – 46

22:34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,

22:35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

22:36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

22:37 He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

22:38 This is the greatest and first commandment.

22:39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

22:41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:

22:42 "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David."

22:43 He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

22:44 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

22:45 If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"

22:46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

