

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

March 17, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE
CAMEROON

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Leader: Dr. Renee Mackey

Liturgist: Britney Kumchu

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN CANDLE

Pastor Renee Mackey

OPENING SONG

“I Love to Tell the Story”

GTG #464

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory; of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longing as nothing else could do.

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Covenant God wants an audience with us.
The original lawgiver seeks to write upon our hearts.
Let us open our hearts.
And hand God the pen.

OPENING PRAYER

Only you are holy, Engraver of our hearts. Your Beloved was chosen by you to share our life. He came, to melt our frozen hearts with the warmth of your mercy. He came, to be broken that we might be mended. He came to suffer death for our sake, that seed of new life planted deep in death's cold tomb, so he could be raised to newness, of glory and hope made known to all who come seeking him. May we radiate your love to our community so all may find new hope. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

“He Came Down”

GTG #137

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light . . .

He came down that we may have peace . . .

He came down that we may have joy . . .

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34

ANTHEM

“We See the Mountains Lifted High Before Us”

SJU Chancel Choir

(trad. Irish; arr. Hal H. Hopson)

We see the mountains lifted high before us
And some may ask, “From where does our help come?”
I tell you this, our help comes from the Lord
The God who made all heavens, all the earth

God calls us back when on the road we lose our way
The Lord who keeps us never, never sleeps
The God of all, the very God of Israel
Will hold us fast and bring us home again

The Lord, by night, will be a light to guide us
The Lord, by day, will be a constant shade
Our going out, our coming in are guarded
From this time forth, and yet forevermore

SCRIPTURE READING #2

John 12:29 – 33

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Psalm 109:105

Success Ambesi Suh and
Noella Sama

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
Youth Presbyterian Rally

MESSAGE

“THE ENGRAVED LETTERS”

Pastor Renee Mackey

PRAYER FOR CAMEROON

Bridget Afanwi

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer (new version)

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SONGS
OF REFLECTION

“Have You Made Up Your Mind?”

Noella Sama &
congregation

Have you made up your mind?
Your mind
To serve the Lord?
The Lord
Oh yes, I've made up my mind to serve the Lord,
serve Him till I die.

“Are You Ready When the Lord Shall Come”

CALL TO GENEROSITY

**God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right
and to walk in your ways. Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own
good purposes in the church and in the community. We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

“Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!”

GTG #390

Praise, praise, praise the Lord!
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Pastor Renee Mackey

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

Worship Resources:

Hollies, Linda H. *Trumpet in Zion: Worship Resources, Year B* for the African American community of faith. The Pilgrim Press, Chicago: 2002, p.184-185.

Long, Kimberly Bracken ed. *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Vol. 1*. Westminster John Knox press, 2014, p. 100.

Shuman, Thom. M. *Where the Broken Gather: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year B*. Middletown, DE, 2014, p. 106-107.

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

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12:29 – 33

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ ³⁰Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

