

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

**May 12, 2024**

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: John Telis

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**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

GTG #20

*Refrain:*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.

*Refrain*

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky:

*Refrain*

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

*Refrain*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

*Refrain*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked.

**We delight in God's Word, we meditate on God day and night.**

Our worship grounds us in God, like trees planted by streams of water.

**God helps us yield good fruit. We do not wither when we spend time in God's presence.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. Clear our minds. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive and live out the message you intend for us today. Amen.**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**Christ forgives. Christ transforms. Christ renews. Christ leads us down the path of new beginnings. We are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and saved. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING #1

1 John 5:9 – 13

ANTHEM

“Come, Ye Sinners”  
*(Ruth Elaine Schram)*

SJU Men's Choir

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
true belief and true repentance, every grace that draws you nigh.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

John 17:6 – 19

TIME WITH  
YOUNG DISCIPLES

I KNOW EVERYTHING

Pastor Steve Nofel

The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me.

I stand alone on the word of God.

The B-I-B-L-E.

MESSAGE

“PASTOR ... WHAT BIBLE DO YOU USE?”

Pastor Steve Nofel

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 SONG  
OF REFLECTION

“The Family Prayer Song”

TFWS #2188

Come and fill our homes with your presence;  
you alone are worthy of our reverence.

**Refrain:**

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

*We will serve the Lord.*

Lord, we vow to live holy,  
bowing our knees to you only.  
*Refrain*

## CALL TO GENEROSITY

**Generous God, we bring you our offerings today. Bless these gifts. Bless the tasks we will undertake this week. Bless us to be blessings in this world. Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

GTG #465

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

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*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*

### **1 John 5:9 – 13**

<sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup> Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### **John 17:6 – 19**

<sup>6</sup> I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no

longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

