

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

May 5, 2024

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

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***Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion.**

Liturgist: Pamila Brown

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

GTG #14

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:

Refrain

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Refrain

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

As far as the east is from the west, let us thank the Lord for God's steadfast love.

Let us offer thanksgiving sacrifices and show the world the love of God.

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, we come before you this morning with praise and thanksgiving. Open our minds to what you have to teach us. Open our hearts to your love and enable us to love you in new and profound ways. Open our souls to the joy that can only be found in you. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: ‘I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds, and I will remember their sins no more.’” In Jesus Christ we are loved, forgiven, and saved. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING #1

1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26

ANTHEM

“Grant Us Thy Peace”
(Felix Mendelssohn)

SJU Chancel Choir

Grant us thy peace, Almighty Lord,
Thou source of every blessing!
Feeble and frail, trust we thy word,
All things in thee possessing.
In thee is our hope and safety.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Mark 14:22 – 25

TIME WITH

YOUNG DISCIPLES

SMELL AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE

“THOSE CUPPY THINGS”

Pastor Steve Nofel

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Gracious God, from the overflowing of your love, we have been given abundance upon abundance. Receive, we pray, our offerings and bless them. Help us to show and share your love by the right use of these offerings. We pray all things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Pray for the world and your neighborhood while you wait for all to be served. Those at home, please take time now to get a piece of bread or cracker and a cup of juice so you can partake with us.

The Great Thanksgiving

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, and a joyful thing, to give you thanks and praise.

From the very beginning creative God, all creation has sung your glory; goodness laughing from the mountaintops, beauty echoing in every valley. You shaped us from creation, our Word calling us by name, your Spirit breathing life into us. You set us free to live with you in that garden of delightful wonders, but we believed our thoughts were better than yours. We shaped idols to look like our desires, and placed them in such a way that we would not see you. There is nothing that stays hidden from you, so you saw how foolish we were. Sin muddled our minds so that we could not listen to the prophets you sent, so Jesus came to show us your love which has never abandoned us.

With those who stood at the foot of Sinai, with those who were astounded in the temple, with those who have become foolish by following you, with all your children of every time and in every place, we lift our songs to your glory.

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your holy name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, God of grace and glory, and blessed is Jesus, the Christ, our Lord. When we insisted on worshipping every petty and pretty idol, you came to show us exactly what your love looks like. When we put our expectations in Jesus' way, hoping he would stumble over them, he picked them up and threw them aside, so he could continue until he reached the end of your journey. When we looked for a sign that God is with us, he died on the cross, and was raised to new life. As we seek the strength to follow your Child, as we long to be as obedient as he was, we would speak of that mystery called faith:

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit on the gifts on this Table, ever Faithful God. Here, where creation yearns for comfort, speak hope. Here, where your children are broken, longing for life, speak healing. Here, where the bread fills us with life and peace, where the cup refreshes our weary spirits, send us forth to offer ourselves in all those ways of service the world finds so foolish.

And when our journey has ended, when we are gathered around the Feast which awaits us in our eternal home, we will join our word and our hearts, honoring you with praise and song.

Maker of justice and mercy, Spirit of compassion and grace, Lover of all creation, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Please join me as we now say together the prayer Jesus taught the disciples.

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.**

Words of Institution

The Breaking of Bread and Sharing of Cup

On the night when our Lord was betrayed, he took bread and broke it and after giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples and said, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And after supper, he took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death and resurrection until he comes again."

Come, all is prepared. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion: Music for Reflection

Patricia Hammer

COMMUNION HYMN

"Come to the Table of Grace"

GTG #507

Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of peace ...
Come to the table of love ...
Come to the table of hope ...
Come to the table of joy ...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you God for this supper shared in the Spirit with your Son, Jesus, who makes us new and strong and brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving all good gifts in him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as you have served us in Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"Lord, Make Us More Holy"

GTG #313

Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy, until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.
Lord, make us more loving ...
Lord, make us more patient ...
Lord, make us more faithful ...

BENEDICTION

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

1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Mark 14:22 – 25

²² While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.' ²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

