

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

July 7, 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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

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Liturgist: Guy Moody

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

GTG #65

Guide me, o thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is Good;
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
We see God’s wonderous works all around us,
So we come to praise God’s holy name.
Open wide your hearts in this time of worship!
We lift our hearts to God with thanks and praise!

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, your love endures forever. You are our refuge and strength. We praise you for the wonders that surround us. And thank you for lifting our hearts before you. Your love endures forever. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ has set us free. Claim your salvation. Rejoice in God's grace. Respond with love.

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Ezekiel 2:1 – 5

ANTHEM

“If You Want a Song”

Ingrid Sampson
and congregation

(Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander; a sing-along song)

If you want a song *(you want a song)*
You gotta sing *(you gotta sing)*
If you want a song *(you want a song)*
You gotta sing *(you gotta sing)*
'Cause once you find your song
Then the world can sing along
If you want a song *(you want a song)*
You gotta sing *(you gotta sing)*

If you want change *(you want change)*
You gotta change *(you gotta change)*
If you want change *(you want change)*
You gotta change *(you gotta change)*
'Cause once you change yourself
Then you can change something else
If you want change *(you want change)*
You gotta change *(you gotta change)*

If not now, then when?
Not later, not then
If not us, then who?
It's gotta be me and you

If you want love *(you want love)*
Give it away *(give it away)*
If you want love *(you want love)*
Give it away *(give it away)*
And the best place to start
Is inside your little heart
If you want love *(you want love)*
Give it away *(give it away)*

Repeat verse 1

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Mark 6:1 – 13

TIME WITH
YOUNG DISCIPLES

“Speak with God; Speak for God”

Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE

“LUGGAGE”

Pastor Steve Nofel

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Steve Nofel

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Gracious God, we offer our gifts to you. May they be used to bring grace and healing to this hurting world. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

And now help us to pray as Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer

**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 HYMN #1

"One Bread, One Body"

GTG #530

Refrain:

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.

Refrain

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.

Refrain

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all.

Refrain

COMMUNION HYMN #2

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

GTG #623

I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain ...

I've got love like an ocean ...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks. Amen.

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

***We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.***

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad.

Refrain

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets.

Refrain

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The St. John United Church Council has called a meeting of the congregation for today, Sunday, July 7, 2024, directly following worship in Room 10. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the report of the Church Nominating Committee and elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

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

Ezekiel 2:1 – 5

The Lord said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ² And when God spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard God speaking to me. ³ The Lord said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation^[b] of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says The Lord God.' ⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Mark 6:1 – 13

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

