

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

**August 11, 2024**

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

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Liturgist: Jean Weller

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**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

GTG #611

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

Give thanks to God!

**We thank God for joy, for laughter, for abundant blessings of every kind.**

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

**We thank God, when we can and as we can, for struggles, for solitude, for fears.**

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We thank you God that, in Christ, our joys as well as our pain, our losses as well as our laughter, are in your heart and hands. Amen.**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God knows our hearts, and God knows when we desire to change how we view the world and how we live. God will help us onto right paths. God forgives us, and restores us, to do God’s work in this world. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and that there is always the time to do something new. Share the Good News.

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Psalm 148

ANTHEM

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

GTG #729  
Congregational Hymn

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

John 6:35 – 51

TIME WITH  
YOUNG DISCIPLES

“Sing, Sing, Sing, Sing”

Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE

“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE”

Pastor Steve Nofel

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

OFFERTORY SONG

OF REFLECTION

“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 . . .

## CALL TO GENEROSITY

**O God, bless the monetary offerings we make, as well as the time, talent, and concern we will offer you this week. Keep our hearts free of worry so that we can give what we have freely, trusting your Spirit to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine in Christ's name. Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

*(Mark Sedio)*

### **Refrain:**

***Take my life that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

### **Refrain**

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

### **Refrain**

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.

### **Refrain**

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

### **Refrain**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

### **FELLOWSHIP ON SECOND SUNDAYS!**

Join us every second Sunday for fellowship right after church in **Room 10**. Everyone is welcome to have a simple snack and a lot of good visiting! ~ *Pastor Steve Nofel*

*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*

## **Psalm 148**

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord all you angels; sing praises, all you heavenly host.
- <sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praises, all you shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup> Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, sing praises, you waters above the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord; who gave the command and they were created, <sup>6</sup> who made them stand fast for ever and ever, who gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; <sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will; <sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; <sup>10</sup> wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; <sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; <sup>12</sup> young men and young women, old and young together.

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord has raised up strength for this people, and praise for all loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near to the Lord.  
Hallelujah!

## **John 6:35 – 51**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup> for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

<sup>41</sup> Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' <sup>42</sup> They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

