

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

August 18, 2024

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

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Liturgist: Alvin Thompson

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“I Will Enter His Gates”

TFWS #2270

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter his courts with praise.
I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made."
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad.
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.
He has made me glad, he has made me glad.
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing the praises of God in the congregation of the faithful.

Let us praise the name of the Lord in dance;
let us sing praise to God with timbrel and harp.

Let the faithful rejoice;

let us be joyful. Because you have favored us with life,
we dance before you in our joy
and praise you with unending song. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The assurance of grace is simple as can be. The places, the people, the blessings, the ability to live and thrive in the roughest times. This is the Lord’s doing! Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Psalm 149

ANTHEM

“O Sing to the Lord”

GTG #637
Congregational Hymn

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

John 6:51 – 58

TIME WITH
YOUNG DISCIPLES

“The Best Dictionary Ever”

Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE

“ABIDE”

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

GTG #450

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Great God, you have been generous and marvelously kind. Give us such wonder, love, and gratitude that we may sing praises to you and joyfully honor your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Take Time to Be Holy”

UM #395

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

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

Psalm 149

¹ Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing the praises of God in the congregation of the faithful.

² Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their sovereign.

³ Let them praise the name of the Lord in the dance; let them sing praise to God with timbrel and harp.

⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

⁶ Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand; ⁷ to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples; ⁸ to bind their rulers in chains and their nobles with links of iron; ⁹ to inflict on them the judgement decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful people.

Hallelujah!

John 6:51 – 58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.'

