

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

**August 25, 2024**

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

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Liturgist: Carole Thompson

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**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

GTG #15

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam,

***Refrain:***

***Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

O brother wind with clouds and rain,  
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear.

***Refrain***

O brother fire, so warm and bright,  
chase off the shadows of the night.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfolds such blessings on our way,

***Refrain***

All who for love of God forgive,  
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears;  
so, even in the midst of tears,

***Refrain***

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

Christ abides in us,  
**and we abide in him.**

Christ has the words of eternal life:

**We believe and trust that he is the Holy One of God.**

As we hear the gospel of peace today,  
**let us choose again whom we will serve.**

We will serve the God of liberation and new life,  
**the God who hears and answers when we call.**  
We bring our praises and our prayers to God,  
**O God, we trust you to meet us as we gather.**  
**We worship you together! Amen!**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

John's Gospel tells us: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (*John 3:17*). Christ forgives us and makes us whole. Christ fills us with life and sets us free for love. Know that you are forgiven, loved and saved and be at peace.

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Psalm 150

ANTHEM

"Holy Ground"

TFWS #2272  
Congregational Hymn

We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all around;  
let us praise Jesus now;  
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

John 6:60 – 71

TIME WITH  
YOUNG DISCIPLES

"The Faces of Jesus"

Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE

**"YOU. YOU! YOU!"**

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

"Blessed Assurance"

GTG #839

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

**Refrain:**

***This is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.***

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

**Refrain**

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

**Refrain**

PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

**Holy God, we thank you that we have heard your words of eternal life today. Take what we give and multiply it for the good of our faith community, the good of our neighbors, and the good of the world you so love. In the name of the one whose life gives life to the world, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Trena Perez Powell

CLOSING SONG

“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

TFWS #2151

I’m so glad, Jesus lifted me,  
I’m so glad, Jesus lifted me,  
I’m so glad, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

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*

**Psalm 150**

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Lord in the holy temple; praise God in the firmament of divine power.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord for mighty acts; praise God for excellent greatness.
- <sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord with the blast of the ram’s-horn; praise God with lyre and harp.
- <sup>4</sup> Praise the Lord with timbrel and dance; praise God with strings and pipe.
- <sup>5</sup> Praise the Lord with resounding cymbals; praise God with loud-clanging cymbals.
- <sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

## John 6:60 – 71

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you?' <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.' <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.' <sup>71</sup> He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

