

# ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH

A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

**September 1, 2024**

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

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Liturgist: Karen Randall

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**Have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion.**

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## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR CHURCH

Clean-Up/Clean-Out

Pastor Steve Nofel  
and Yvonne Barner

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 hymn of grateful 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 Lord open my lips.

**And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on your church. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort.**

**Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still, you love us. You wash us, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may give you praise forever and ever; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING #1                      Mark 1:12 – 13

ANTHEM                                      “For the Fruit of All Creation”                                      GTG #36  
Congregational Hymn

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.  
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING #2                      Mark 1:35 – 39

TIME WITH                                      Pastor Steve Nofel  
YOUNG DISCIPLES

MESSAGE                                      “PREPARING FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY”                                      Pastor Steve Nofel

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO GENEROSITY

**Generous God, we return to you these gifts, not only of our resources, but also of our lives. Sanctify us and use us to work out your purposes in the world. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. This is a foretaste of the Kingdom.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples on the Road to Emmaus, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him, who need him this day to share the feast which he has prepared.

### 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 that Jesus was betrayed, he took the bread. He gave God thanks and praise. He broke the bread and said to his disciples, "Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body broken for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you eat it, do this in memory of me."

Then he took the cup. Again, he gave God thanks and praise. He gave the cup to the disciples and said, take this all of you and drink it. This is the cup of my blood. The new and everlasting covenant given for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you it, do this in memory of me."

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim his saving death and resurrection until he comes again.

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

COMMUNION HYMN

"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***

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, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

"The Summons"

TFWS #2130

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The St. John United Church Council has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, September 8, 2024, at the end of worship in Room 4. It will be part of the service livestream. The purpose of the meeting is to elect one new member of the 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*

### Mark 1:12 – 13

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

### Mark 1:35 – 39

<sup>35</sup> In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' <sup>38</sup> He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

