

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

September 22, 2024

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

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Leader: Dr. Renee Mackey

Liturgist: Pamela Love

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

GTG #757

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

It is the wisdom of the clever to understand where they go, but the folly of fools misleads.

There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.

The wise are cautious and turn away from evil, but the fool throws off restraints and is careless.

Wisdom is at home in the mind of one who has understanding, but it is not known in the hearts of fools.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

“He Came Down”

GTG #137

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

... that we may have light

... that we may have peace

... that we may have joy

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Proverbs 2:1 – 11

ANTHEM

“Be Still and Know”
(Fred Bock)

SJU Chancel Choir

Be still and know that I am God
I am the Lord that strengthens thee.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

James 3:13 - 18

TIME WITH
YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Renee Mackey

MESSAGE

“MY WAY IS THE ONLY WAY”

Pastor Renee Mackey

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

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

GTG #654

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

(sing twice)

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Holy God, take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ’s mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Refrain:

*Lead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

I am weak and I need thy strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy Light to see,
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

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

Proverbs 2:1 – 11

2 My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
3 if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;
4 if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures—
5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
8 guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
10 for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
11 prudence will watch over you;
and understanding will guard you.

James 3:13 – 18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

