

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH

A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

November 3, 2024

ALL SAINTS DAY // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Karen Hopkins

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“For All the Saints”

GTG #326

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's, the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter the gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.

Give thanks to God; bless God's holy name.

For the Lord is good.
**For God's steadfast love endures forever
and God is faithful to all generations.**

OPENING PRAYER

Mighty God, by your power you created us, and by your goodness you call us to be your people. Accept the offering of our worship that every race and nation may enter your courts, praising you in song; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

“What Do You Want From Me?”

Pastor Steve Nofel

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 11a

ANTHEM

“Hymn of Promise”
(Natalie Sleeth)

SJU Chancel Choir

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity.
In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Luke 10:38 – 42

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

“What Is Your Favorite Time of Year?”

Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE

“JESUS' VERSION OF TIME MANAGEMENT”

Pastor Steve Nofel

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Generous and loving God, we thank you for the many blessings in our lives. As you have so freely given your love in Jesus Christ, may we freely share your love with others through these gifts we offer. May they be signs of our devotion to you and our willingness to love in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 drink 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

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

GTG #730

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God,
and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor Steve Nofel

COMMUNION SONG

"Soon and Very Soon"

GTG #384

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 11a

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Luke 10:38 – 42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

