

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

January 26, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

Zoom Link:

[Jan 26th Worship Service and Annual Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 853 0936 1390

Passcode: 584280

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Leader: Rev. Jim Miller

Liturgist: Rev. Steve Nofel

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

GTG #1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and ever more shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus proclaimed, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you sent Jesus to proclaim your reign and to teach with authority. Anoint us with your Spirit, that we too may bring good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Gather Us In”

GTG #401

Here in this place the new light is streaming
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14 – 21

TIME WITH
YOUNG DISCIPLES

MESSAGE

“WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR GOD?”

Rev. Jim Miller

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

“Change My Heart, O God”

TFWS #2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

Lord Jesus, help us to join you in proclaiming release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed and the proclamation of God’s favor to all humanity. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

GTG #700

I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me...
I'm gonna pray so God can use me...
I'm gonna sing so God can use me...

BENEDICTION

Please welcome our guests today:
Rev. Dr. Jacqueline (Jackie) Taylor, General Presbyter, Presbytery of Baltimore
Rev. Jim Miller, Central Maryland District Superintendent, Baltimore-Washington Conference

REMINDER!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS TODAY!

The congregational meeting will be in-person immediately following worship in Room 10.

Those who are unable to participate in person will be able to access both the worship service and the meeting from the Zoom link below.

Zoom Link:

[Jan 26th Service and Annual Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 853 0936 1390

Passcode: 584280

The link will also be posted in the Flash and on our website (sjunited.org).

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

Luke 4:14 – 21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JAN 26 – FEB 2

All meetings are via Zoom (unless otherwise noted).

All meetings are open to the members and affiliates of SJU unless otherwise noted. Members are encouraged to connect to, engage, and invest in the life and leadership of this Body of Christ, the church! Contact SJUColumbia@gmail.com if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 1/26	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and Zoom</i>) (District Superintendent Rev. Jim Miller and General Presbyter Rev. Jacqueline Taylor are scheduled to join us for worship and the congregational meeting.)
	11:30 am	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (Room 10; in-person and Zoom)
Tue, 1/28	7:30 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Sun, 2/2	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and streaming</i>) (Scheduled liturgist: TBA)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

