

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

March 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE
DIVINE 9 CELEBRATION

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Liturgists: Dawn Barnes, Lisa Cooper Green, Steve Nofel [CC] = closed-captioned
Guest Preacher: Dr. Edwin Johnson, Special Assistant to the President, Morgan State University

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“My Lord! What a Morning”

GTG #352

Refrain:

*My Lord! what a morning;
my Lord! what a morning;
O my Lord! what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall,
when the stars begin to fall.*

You will hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations under ground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations under ground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations under ground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

My Lord, what a morning!

You have raised up a mighty nation and a mighty people.

And we are strong, proud, and yours.

My Lord, what a morning!

You have brought us through the dips and hollows, up and down the streets,
over the hills and mountains and through the valleys.

And we are strong, proud, brave and yours.

OPENING PRAYER

My Lord, this morning, we have come to celebrate you, to affirm ourselves as images of you in all your glory and to say "Yes, Lord, we are strong, proud, brave, and yours in every way." We count it all joy! Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Our God has seen our tears. God has been pained by the evil of human hearts. Yet, God is faithful still. God loved humanity enough to send the one and only Son to identify with the outcast, marginalized, and rejected. As the cross pierced the very heart of God, so have the cries of people from different cultures and in different languages.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our ancestors' suffering, hard work, courage, convictions and their beliefs in God paved the way for our emancipation and education. Jesus has liberated us. He has set us free.

Shadowed beneath your hand O God, we forever stand. True to our God and true to our native land. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:8

⁸ God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION OF DR. EDWIN JOHNSON

Patsy Nwagbaraocha

MESSAGE

Dr. Edwin Johnson

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITANY

Patsy Nwagbaraocha

Good morning. Traditionally sororities and fraternities are known for their stepping and their parties; however, when the comment was made that VP Harris (Alpha Kappa Alpha) went to a "colored sorority" event, we knew it was time to share the impact that black Greek organizations make in the global community. Join us as we celebrate members who have labored to make a difference.

Today, we also would like to recognize those in attendance. Please stand as your organization is called: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity.

It was difficult selecting only one member for each organization, but we did our best to select nine individuals to represent the 9 organizations of the National Panhellenic Council. We urge you to research these individuals and others of the Divine 9 who have made extraordinary contributions.

LITANY

Rayna Woodford

We gather in gratitude and reflection as we honor the extraordinary achievements of Black people in our communities and beyond. We pay special tribute to the **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)**, a coalition of nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations, affectionately known as the **Divine Nine**. Since **1906**, these fraternities and sororities have been pillars of leadership, tirelessly advancing **education, health, political advocacy, economic empowerment, and social justice** for Black communities locally and globally.

We give thanks for the countless NPHC members who have dedicated their lives to service, working to uplift and empower others. Today, we celebrate their enduring contributions in shaping a more just and equitable world.

We celebrate those who have championed access to **education**, opening doors for future generations. **Dr. John Hope Franklin** (Alpha Phi Alpha); **Dr. Toni Morrison** (Alpha Kappa Alpha); **Mr. Marcus Peter Blakemore** (Kappa Alpha Psi); **Dr. Carter G. Woodson** (Omega Psi Phi); **Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune** (Delta Sigma Theta); **Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke** (Phi Beta Sigma); **Mrs. Nellie A. Buchanan** (Zeta Phi Beta); **Mrs. Dorothy Hanley Whiteside** (Sigma Gamma Rho); **Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.** (Iota Phi Theta).

We celebrate those who have made groundbreaking contributions in **science and technology**, pushing the boundaries of innovation. **Mr. Garrett Morgan** (Alpha Phi Alpha); **Dr. Mae Jemison** (Alpha Kappa Alpha); **Dr. Kevin Crosse** (Kappa Alpha Psi); **Dr. Charles Drew** (Omega Psi Phi); **Dr. Alexa Canady** (Delta Sigma Theta); **Dr. George Washington Carver** (Phi Beta Sigma); **Dr. Marjorie S. Joyner** (Zeta Phi Beta); **Dr. Myeisha Taylor** (Sigma Gamma Rho); **Mr. Spencer Christian** (Iota Phi Theta).

We celebrate those who have been drum majors for justice, fearlessly advocating for civil rights and equality. **Justice Thurgood Marshall** (Alpha Phi Alpha); **Mrs. Coretta Scott King** (Alpha Kappa Alpha); **Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy** (Kappa Alpha Psi); **Judge William Hastie** (Omega Psi Phi); **Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson** (Delta Sigma Theta); **Congressman John Lewis** (Phi Beta Sigma); **Dr. Zora Neale Hurston** (Zeta Phi Beta); **Mrs. Hattie McDaniel** (Sigma Gamma Rho); **Mr. Harry Alford** (Iota Phi Theta).

We celebrate those who have worked tirelessly in the political arena, ensuring laws are created and enforced equitably. **The Honorable David Dinkins** (Alpha Phi Alpha); **Former Vice President Kamala D. Harris** (Alpha Kappa Alpha); **Congressman Hakeem Jeffries** (Kappa Alpha Psi); **The Honorable Kweisi Mfume** (Omega Psi Phi); **Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett** (Delta Sigma Theta); **First Prime Minister & President Kwame Nkrumah** (Phi Beta Sigma); **Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove** (Zeta Phi Beta); **U.S. Representative Robin L. Kelly** (Sigma Gamma Rho); **The Honorable Bobby Rush** (Iota Phi Theta).

We celebrate those who have enriched our lives through **the arts**, using creativity to inspire and uplift. **Sir Sidney Poitier** (Alpha Phi Alpha); **Dr. Phylicia Rashad** (Alpha Kappa Alpha); **Mr. Cedric "The Entertainer" Kyles** (Kappa Alpha Psi); **Mr. Lonnie Liston Smith** (Omega Psi Phi); **Ms. Roberta Flack** (Delta Sigma Theta); **Mr. Harry Belafonte** (Phi Beta Sigma); **Ms. Dionne Warwick** (Zeta Phi Beta); **Ms. MC Lyte** (Sigma Gamma Rho); **Mr. Terrence "T.C." Carson** (Iota Phi Theta).

We celebrate our **local leaders** whose dedication strengthens our communities every day. **Dr. Calvin Ball** (Alpha Phi Alpha); **Delegate Terri Hill, M.D.** (Alpha Kappa Alpha); **The Honorable Wayne Brooks** (Kappa Alpha Psi); **Delegate Frank S. Turner** (Omega Psi Phi); **Senator Angela D. Alsobrooks** (Delta Sigma Theta); **Delegate Mike Rogers** (Phi Beta Sigma); **Dr. Elizabeth F. Johnson** (Zeta Phi Beta); **Delegate Shaneka T. Henson** (Sigma Gamma Rho); **Officer Harry Dunn** (Iota Phi Theta).

As we lift our voices in thanksgiving, let us acknowledge and honor the profound impact of these organizations and their members, past and present, who continue to transform lives. Through their efforts, they not only uplift the marginalized but also make the world a better place for all.

**May God bless this sacred work, and may we be inspired to follow in their footsteps.
Amen.**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Steve Nofel

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.**

ANTHEM

“My Tribute Medley”
(Andrae Crouch; arr. Dennis Allen)

SJU Chancel Choir

Through It All

I've had many tears and sorrows
I've had questions for tomorrow
There've been times I didn't know right from wrong
But in every situation God gave blessed consolation
That my trials come to only make me strong

So I thank God for the mountains
And I thank Him for the valleys
I thank Him for the storms He's brought me through
For if I'd never had a problem, I wouldn't know that He could solve them
I'd never know what faith in God could do

Through it all, through it all
Oh, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God
Through it all, through it all
Oh, I've learned to depend upon His Word

Bless His Holy Name

Bless the Lord, O my soul
And all that is within me, Bless His holy name
He has done great things
Bless His holy name

My Tribute

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me
Things so undeserved, yet you give to prove your love for me?
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude
All that I am and ever hope to be
I owe it all to Thee

To God be the glory, to God be the glory!
To God be the glory for the things He has done
With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me
To God be the glory for the things He has done

Just let me live my life
Let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee
And should I gain any praise
Let it go to Calvary

To God be the glory, to God be the glory!
To God be the glory for the things He has done
With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me
To God be the glory for the things He has done.

INVITATION AND CALL TO GENEROSITY

Trena Perez Powell

OFFERTORY

REFLECTION

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

(video)

PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

Trena Perez Powell

Lord, we come now to offer our talents, our hearts, our love — our everything. You continue to make a way when there doesn't seem to be one. You ask that we lay everything on the altar and be made whole. Lord, we do. Bless, keep, mold, shape, and heal us in every way. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

GTG #339

(Written by Weldon Johnson – Phi Beta Sigma)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak and help the suffering;

honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MAR 16 – MAR 23

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, 3/16	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) – BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME / DIVINE 9 <i>(Liturgists: Dawn Cooper Barnes, Lisa Cooper Green, Pastor Steve Nofel)</i>
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (Room 10)
Mon, 3/17	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
	1:15 pm	LENT BIBLE STUDY
	7:00 pm	COUNCIL
Tue, 3/18	7:30 pm	PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Thu, 3/20	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 3/23	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) <i>(Scheduled liturgist: TBD)</i>
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

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

