

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

April 6, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE

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Liturgist: Pamela Love

[CC] = closed-captioned

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

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

UMCOR Mission

Alvin Thompson

OPENING SONG

“Sanctuary”

TFWS #2164

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

(Sing 3 times)

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Whoever serves me must follow me”, says the Lord,
“And where I am, there will my servant be also.”

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you have so made us that we cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from your mouth. Give us a hunger for your Word, and in that food satisfy our daily need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
³ **The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.**

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ **May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.**

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
**shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

ANTHEM

“Lamb of God”
(Twila Paris)

SJU Chancel Choir

Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Your gift of love they crucified
They laughed and scorned Him as he died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

Refrain:

*Oh Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God*

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God

Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING #2

John 12:1 – 8

TIME WITH
YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE

“I’LL SEE YOUR TRUE COLORS SHINING THROUGH”

Pastor Steve Nofel

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION AND STATEMENT ON GIVING

COLLECTION OF OFFERING

PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

Dear God,

By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be brave and bold in Christ’s service. Take our offerings, and use them and us for your purposes, in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. 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 "One Bread, One Body" (Sunday 7pm Choir; video [CC])

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, your Son Jesus Christ gave us this holy meal of bread and wine in which we share his body and blood. May we who have celebrated this sign of his great love show in our lives the fruits of his redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING SONG "The Wonderful Cross/When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Refrain:

*O the wonderful cross, o the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, o the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name*

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Pastor Steve Nofel

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 APR 6 – APR 13

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, 4/6	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	9:45 am	ONE-ROOM CHURCH SCHOOL (<i>Room 4</i>)
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Pamela Love</i>)
Mon, 4/7	11:20 am	FELLOWSHIP (<i>Room 4</i>)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
	1:15 pm	LENT BIBLE STUDY – Sunday Scriptures
Tue, 4/8	7:00 pm	BIBLE STUDY – WDJD?
	10:30 am	PRAYER GATHERING (<i>Pastor's Study</i>)
Thu, 4/10	7:00 pm	COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
	5:00 pm	PRAYER GATHERING (<i>Room 4</i>)
	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
	6:30 pm	COMMUNION SERVICE (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sat, 4/12	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
	9:00 am	BIBLE STUDY – Revelations-St. John's Pastoral Letters
Sun, 4/13	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	9:45 am	ONE-ROOM CHURCH SCHOOL (<i>Room 4</i>)
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: TBD</i>)
	11:20 am	FELLOWSHIP (<i>Room 4</i>)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP



REMINDER: HOLY STOP: twice-daily quiet prayer time / 9:30-9:45 am and 2:15-2:30 pm.

Set an alarm to take a holy stop with the pastor wherever you are. If you can't stop as the alarm rings, take 10 seconds and say a quick prayer. Although we will not be in contact during this time, we will know we are praying together.

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

John 12:1 – 8

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

