

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

June 1, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE

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Pastors: Steve Nofel and Hyiwot Teshome

Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green

[CC] = closed-captioned

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

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

CENTERING HYMN

“Surely the Presence”

SJU Chancel Choir &
Congregation

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

GTG #351

All who love and serve your city,
all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice,
all who curse and all who bless:

In your day of wealth and plenty,
wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus,
“You must work while it is day.”

For all days are days of judgment,
and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him,
offering peace from Calvary’s hill.

Risen Lord, shall yet the city
be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory.
Be its name “The Lord is there!”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus gave us a new commandment: to love one another as he has loved us.

By this, everyone will know that we are his disciples.

Come, let us worship the God of love and grace.

With grateful hearts, we worship and follow the way of Christ.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

You have united us through Your grace and welcomed us into the fellowship of Christ. In this time of worship, open our hearts to Your Word and will. Teach us what it means to love one another as Christ has loved us. May our worship be filled with Your Spirit, our songs lifted in joy, and our prayers shaped by Your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Hywiot Teshome

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and mercy,

You have called us to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Yet we confess that our love is often conditional and limited.

We are quick to judge, slow to forgive, and hesitant to serve.

We turn inward instead of reaching out, and we fail to reflect the grace we have received.

Forgive us, O God. Renew us with Your Spirit. Teach us again to love with Christ's self-giving compassion, so that the world might see Your love in us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Acts 11:1 – 18

ANTHEM

“Draw the Circle Wide”

SJU Chancel Choir

(Mark A. Miller)

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still
Let this be our song: No one stands alone
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

SCRIPTURE READING #2

John 13:31 – 35

TIME WITH
YOUNG DISCIPLES

“WHO ARE YOU?”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

MESSAGE

“HOW WILL THEY KNOW US?”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Patty Hammer

PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

**God of grace and glory,
Receive these offerings as symbols of our love and commitment to You. Bless them
and use them to bring Your compassion and justice to life in our community and
beyond. Make us faithful stewards of Your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord's Table

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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among all your creatures to love and serve you.

When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us, your love remained steadfast.

When we were slaves in Egypt, you broke the bonds of our oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom, and made covenant to be our God.

By a pillar of fire you led us through the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. You spoke of love and justice in the prophets, and in the Word made flesh you lived among us, manifesting your glory. He died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels 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.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us.

He came with healing in his touch and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice, and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart, and met with violence and death.

By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of hell were opened. The one who was dead now lives. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne. The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand, grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart.

Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

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.

MUSIC FOR HOLY COMMUNION

"The Family Prayer Song"
(Words and Music by Morris Chapman)

(video; [CC])
(The Praise Band of
Zion United Methodist Church)

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

GTG #523

Refrain

***You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.***

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice,
so when you call your family, Lord
we follow and rejoice.

Refrain

With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heavenly food.

Refrain

Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord?

Refrain

The mystery of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell.

Refrain

You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity.

Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“We Are Marching”
(“Siyahamba”)

TFWS #2235

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos
We are marching in the light of God.

We are praying...

We are dancing...

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

Step into the world, nourished by God’s grace, and love one another as Christ has loved you.

In every word and action, prove to the world that you are his disciples.

And may the love of God uplift you, the grace of Christ support you, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit direct you, now and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JUNE 1 – JUNE 8

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, 6/1	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (<i>Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green</i>)
	11:20 am	SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (Room 4)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Wed, 6/4	2:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
Thu, 6/5	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (<i>Room 4</i>)
Sun, 6/8	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (<i>Scheduled liturgist: Evann Ridgeway</i>)
	11:30 am	FAREWELL FELLOWSHIP WITH PASTOR STEVE (Room 10)
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

ZOOM LINK: SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Purpose: Elect Rev. Hyiwot Teshome as SJU's Next Installed Pastor and Approve Terms of Call

When: Sunday, June 1 immediately following 10:30 am worship service

Where: In Person - SJU Worship Space

Remote - Zoom link: [June 1 Special Congregational Meeting](#)

Remote participants should close their livestream feed at the end of the service and use the Zoom link to connect to the meeting.

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

Acts 11:1 – 18

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

John 13:31 – 35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

