

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

**June 29, 2025**

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE

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Leader: Pastor Renee Mackey

Liturgist: Alvin Thompson

[CC] = closed-captioned

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**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

GTG #331

God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past.  
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:  
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.  
Lead us from night to never-ending day.  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God who stands beyond the future.  
**What’s to come is still unknown.**  
Yet, unchanging, you are with us.  
**And we will not walk alone.**  
Go with us through doubt and darkness.  
**Stand with us in a hopeful place,**  
‘til the chain of time is broken  
**and we see you face-to-face.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Lay the mantel of Elijah on the shoulders of the people of God.  
Let the Spirit shine in the eyes of the body of Christ.  
With a mighty voice, let the church roar, "Justice!"  
With a tender kiss, let her pray, "Mercy!" Amen.**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING #1            II Kings 2:1 – 2, 6 – 14

ANTHEM                            "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)" (Chicago Church of Christ;  
video [CC])

SCRIPTURE READING #2            Luke 9:51 – 62

TIME WITH

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Renee Mackey

MESSAGE

**"THE APPRENTICE"**

Pastor Renee Mackey

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Renee Mackey

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Renee Mackey

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.**

INVITATION AND CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY SONG

OF REFLECTION

"Here I Am, Lord"

GTG #69

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**Refrain:**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

**Refrain**

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

***Refrain***

PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

**The blessings that come from God are rich like the fruits of summer. With our tithes and offerings let us give thanks and praise to the triune God: to the Son for our salvation, the Spirit for our inspiration, and the Creator for the gift of nature. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

GTG #740

***Refrain:***

***Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.***

I am weak and I need thy strength and power  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***Refrain***

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***Refrain***

I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy Light to see,  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***Refrain***

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Pastor Renee Mackey

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

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*Worship Resources:*

*Burgess, Ruth. Bare Feet and Buttercups: Resources for Ordinary Time. Iona, Scotland: Wild Goose, Publ., 2008, page 213.*

*Long, Kimberly Bracken ed. Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Vol. 2. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014 and 2015, p.60-61.*

*Shuman, Thom M. Bearers of Grace and Justice: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year C Middleton, DE, 2012, p. 171.*

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## CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JUNE 29 – JULY 6

**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](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 6/29	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person and livestream</i> ) ( <i>Liturgist: Alvin Thompson</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP
Tue, 7/1	2:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
Thu, 7/3	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )
<b>Fri, 7/4</b>		<b>OFFICE AND IFC CLOSED – INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY</b>
Sun, 7/6	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE: First Sermon By Pastor Hyiwot Teshome</b> ( <i>in-person and livestream</i> ) ( <i>Scheduled liturgist: Debbie Parker</i> )
	7:00 pm	SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP

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*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*

### **II Kings 2:1 – 2, 6 – 14**

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup> He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

<sup>13</sup> He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah? Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

## Luke 9:51 – 62

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

