

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

November 30, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE

All music used by permission. CCLI License #1325764; CCLI Streaming License #20116748

Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green

[CC] = closed-captioned
* **Congregation Standing**

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer

WELCOME

CENTERING HYMN

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

UM #328

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, the day of the Lord draws near.
We gather to watch, to wait, and to hope.
No one knows the hour or the moment,
yet Christ calls us to be awake and ready.
Let us stand expectantly in God’s presence.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*PRAYER OF APPROACH

Holy God,
You, who hold time in Your hands and eternity in Your heart,
we come before You with expectant spirits.
In a world distracted by hurry, You call us to listen; in a world caught in fear,
You call us to hope. Awaken our minds, stir our hearts,
and prepare our lives to receive Your coming presence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!”

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
We confess that we become tired of waiting.
We are distracted by worries, tempted by desires, and lulled
into thinking that Your coming is far away.
Forgive us for living aimlessly, for letting fear steer our decisions,
and for ignoring the call to love our neighbors.
Wake us up, Lord. Stir us to stay alert, to show compassion, and to live faithfully,
so that when You come—at an hour we do not expect—
you will find us ready, joyful, and fearless. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Refrain:

***There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.***

***There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.***

For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

Lord save us, take pity, Light in our darkness.
We call you; we wait: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Friends, Christ is our peace—who breaks down every dividing wall.
Let us share His peace with one another:
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of promise and mystery, as we open Your Word, open our hearts.
By Your Spirit, awaken us to Your presence, challenge us by Your truth,
and prepare us for Your coming kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

ANTHEM

Ingrid Sampson

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 24:36-44

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Waiting for Jesus”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

MESSAGE

“LIVING WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CALL TO OFFERING

In a world worried about scarcity, God calls us to live with generous hope.
Let us give our gifts, trusting in the One who comes to make everything new.

OFFERTORY

“Come Jesus, Prince of Peace”

VIDEO

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, receive these gifts and the hearts that offer them.
Use them to ignite hope, ease burdens, and prepare this world
for the coming of Your Son. In Christ, our Light and Redeemer. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord’s Prayer (traditional version)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

GTG #88
(verses 1-4)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

*POSTLUDE

GTG #106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

Refrain

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

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Matthew 24:36-44

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,[a] but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day[b] your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 7

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, 11/30	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person and livestream)</i> <i>(Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green)</i>
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP <i>(Room 10)</i>
Thurs, 12/4	6:00 pm	A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL <i>(Room 4)</i>
	7:30 pm	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL <i>(Room 4)</i>
Sat, 12/6	2:00 pm	Faith & Fellowship Team for ladies of SJU (see FLASH)
Sun, 12/7	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person and livestream)</i> <i>(Scheduled liturgist: Karen Hopkins)</i>
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP <i>(Room 10)</i>
	4:00 pm	FUNERAL SERVICE - Joel Nwagbaraocha <i>(Room 4)</i>

