

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

February 22, 2026

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

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Liturgist: Patsy Nwagbaraocha

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* **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

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
There he faced hunger, testing, and temptation.
He did not turn away from God’s way.
He trusted God’s Word and His strength.
Come, let us worship the One who gives us the power to stand.
We come, trusting in God’s grace and mercy.
Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF APPROACH

Faithful God,
You meet us in the wilderness places of our lives.
When we are weak, you offer strength.
When we are tested, you offer truth.
Draw us close in worship, so we may be renewed by your Word and
strengthened by your Spirit to follow Christ with courage and trust.
Through Jesus our Lord, Amen.

*OPENING SONG

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

GTG #775

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
We confess that we are tempted to rely on ourselves more than on you.
We seek easy answers, quick fixes, and superficial victories.
We hunger for things that do not satisfy
and reach for power that does not bring healing.**

**Forgive us when we stray from your ways.
Forgive us when we doubt your provision, your presence, and your promises.
By your grace, empower us to resist temptation and to live by every word that
comes from you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
In him, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

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

*THE RESPONSE

“Glory Be to the Father”

GTG #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

As Christ has called us into the light, let us share signs of that peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to Your Word. Grant us wisdom to listen, courage to obey, and strength to follow Christ faithfully. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

ANTHEM “Total Praise” Chancel Choir
Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills,
knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to You.
Amen

GOSPEL READING Matthew 4:1-11

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE “Black History Month” Patsy Nwagbaraocha
Dawn Barnes
Fiona Dixon

MESSAGE **“Beating Back Temptation”** Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

*RESPONSIVE HYMN “Seek Ye First” GTG #175

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

CALL TO OFFERING

Trusting that God provides all we need, let us offer our gifts and our lives
in gratitude and faith.

OFFERTORY “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Video

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God,
Receive these gifts as symbols of our trust and gratitude.
Use them to build up your church and to bless a world in need.
May our giving be a part of our faithful resistance to everything
that pulls away from you. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

**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

“Take Time to be Holy”

GTG #395

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

*POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer

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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 1

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, 2/22	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person and livestream)</i> <i>(Scheduled liturgist: Patsy Nwagbaraocha)</i>
Sat, 2/28	11:30 am	BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION <i>(Rooms 16/18)</i>
	9:00 am	Men's Group <i>(Bagel Bin, Wilde Lake Village Center)</i>
Sun, 3/1	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE <i>(in-person and livestream)</i> <i>(Scheduled liturgist: Pamila Brown)</i>
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP <i>(Room 10)</i>

