

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

April 12, 2026

COMMUNION SUNDAY // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE

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Liturgist: Yeketenesh Woldegiorgis

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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

Peace be with you!

Jesus stands among us, offering life and hope.

Look at His hands and side, the marks of love.

We rejoice in the risen Lord!

Let us worship the One who brings peace and breathes the Spirit upon us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

*PRAYER OF APPROACH

Gracious and risen Lord,

You come to us even when the doors of our hearts are locked tight with fear. You stand among us, speaking peace into our chaos, breathing your Spirit into our weary lives. Break through our doubts, and enter the rooms we have sealed off—our grief, our questions, our guarded hopes and speak again your word of peace:

“Peace be with you.”

We pray in the name of the One who comes through locked doors and stills our fears, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*OPENING SONG

“Morning Has Broken”

GTG #664

Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of endless life,
You burst from the tomb, yet we sometimes live as if death still rules. You speak
peace, yet we are slow to listen and slower to believe. You show us Your hands and
side, but we cling to fear and doubt. Forgive us, risen Lord. Breathe Your Spirit into
us once more. Make us bold to share the good news: life and love have triumphed
forever! Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Christ, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are made new. Believe this and be at peace.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*THE RESPONSE

“Glory Be to the Father”

GTG #579

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

Friends, Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body through the cross.
We gather in His name and share His peace.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of risen life,
Breathe Your Spirit upon us as we hear Your Word. Open our hearts to receive the peace that Christ offers, the courage He inspires, and the hope He plants deep within us. As the disciples' fear turned to joy in Your presence, may our doubts become trust, and may our questions draw us nearer to You. Through the strength of Your Holy Spirit, empower us to be witnesses to the life and love revealed in Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 16

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

GTG 14

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies

Refrain:

***Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise***

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

Refrain

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Refrain

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great, love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven

Refrain

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“The Huddle”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

MESSAGE

“THE SECOND HALF”

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

*RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

GTG #286

Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God; until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God; till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God; so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

CALL TO OFFERING

Let us now bring our offerings out of love for the one who loved us and gave us peace and eternal life.

OFFERTORY

“Change My Heart, O God”

GTG #695

Change my heart, o God, make it ever true
Change my heart, o God, may I be like you
You are the potter, I am the clay
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray
Change my heart, o God, make it ever true
Change my heart, o God, may I be like you

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

GTG #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Living God, you have blessed us with peace, forgiveness, and new life. Receive these gifts and use them — and us — to proclaim Your mercy and goodness to the whole world. Through Your Spirit, make us brave witnesses of our hope in Christ. In His name, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord’s Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*The bread of life—given for you.
The cup of salvation—poured out for you.*

MUSIC FOR HOLY COMMUNION

“Let Us Bread Together”

GTG 525

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Refrain

Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees;

Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace,

We thank you for this holy meal in which you have given yourself to us.

Renew us by your Spirit, that we may follow Jesus with courage and joy.

Send us into the world to live as people reborn by your love,

ready to serve wherever you lead. In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

*THE SENDING

“Farewell, Good Friends”

GTG 540

(sung 4 times)

Farewell, good friends! Farewell, good friends,

Shalom, shalom

Till we meet again, till we meet again,

Shalom, shalom

CLOSING HYMN

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

GTG 248

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

*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

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF APRIL 12- APRIL 19

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, 4/12	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (Scheduled liturgist: Yeketenesh Woldegiorgis)
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (Room 10)
Sun, 4/19	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person and livestream</i>) (Scheduled liturgist: Robin Dietzway)
	11:30 am	FELLOWSHIP (Room 10)

