

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

**June 7, 2026**

COMMUNION SUNDAY // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE

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Liturgist: Pamela Love

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\* **Congregation Standing**

**HAVE YOUR JUICE AND BREAD/CRACKERS PREPARED FOR HOLY COMMUNION.**

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**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

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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

Come, all who seek mercy and healing.  
**We come to meet the One who welcomes sinners and restores the broken.**  
Jesus calls the forgotten, the weary, and the wounded.  
**Christ gathers us in love and compassion.**  
Come, for God’s mercy reaches farther than our fears.  
**We come to worship the One whose touch brings life.**  
**Let us worship God!**

\*PRAYER OF APPROACH

**Merciful and loving God, we gather in your presence with gratitude and hope. You are the God who sees beyond appearances, calls unlikely people to discipleship and reaches out to those the world pushes aside.**  
**In Jesus Christ, you touched the sick, welcomed sinners, and restored the brokenhearted. Touch us again this day with your mercy. Heal what is wounded within us. Strengthen what has grown weary. Remind us that no one is beyond your grace. Open our hearts to receive your love and send us into the world to reflect that same mercy toward others. In Christ’s holy name, we pray. Amen.**

Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy  
In my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy  
In my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy  
In my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
In my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
In my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
In my heart.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we do not always see others as you do. Too often, we judge before listening, exclude before welcoming, and condemn before showing compassion. We confess that we sometimes avoid those whom Jesus embraced—the hurting, the struggling, the forgotten, and the misunderstood. Forgive us for the times we have failed to show mercy. Heal our hardened hearts. Teach us to love as Christ loves. Help us become people whose words, actions, and presence bring healing rather than harm. By your grace, make us instruments of your compassion and peace. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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 people who have received the mercy of Christ, let us share that mercy and peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, as your Word is read and proclaimed, open our ears to hear your truth, open our hearts to receive your mercy, and open our lives to follow Jesus more faithfully. By your Spirit, help us not only to hear your Word, but to live it. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Hosea 5:15-6:6**

ANTHEM

**“Appalachian Grace”**

*Arranged by Diane Hannibal and Joel Raney*

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight.  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

This, our song of endless praise.  
This, our song of endless praise.

GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**"The Reach of Kindness"**

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

MESSAGE

**"Touching Mercy"**

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

\*RESPONSIVE HYMN

**"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"**

GTG #203

***Refrain:***

***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.

***Refrain***

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;  
neighbors are near us and far away.

***Refrain***

These are the ones we should serve;  
these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you.

***Refrain***

Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;  
this is the way we should live like you.

***Refrain***

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

**"Enfold Me" by Liz Vice**

(Video)

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.

Praise God the Father who's the source;  
Praise God the Son who is the course;  
Praise God the Spirit who's the flow;  
Praise God, our portion here below!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, receive these gifts and use them for healing, hope, and mercy in your world. May what we offer today help touch lives with the compassion of Christ. Bless both the gifts and the givers, that together we may participate in your work of restoration and love. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Intercessory Prayer 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.**

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

“Come, Share the Lord”

GTG #510

We gather here in Jesus' name,  
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;  
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:  
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,  
come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here, - everyone belongs;  
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,  
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;  
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:  
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,  
come, share the Lord.

We are now a family of which Christ is the head;  
though unseen he meets us here  
in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;  
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;  
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:  
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,  
come, share the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God,  
We thank you for feeding us with this holy meal. Send us now into the world to live  
and act in Christ's name—full of mercy, not for ourselves, but for your glory. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

SDA #356

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!"

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

\*THE SENDING

**"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"**

GTG #837

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Refrain:***

***Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.***

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Refrain***

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Refrain***

## **Hosea 5:15-6:6**

I will return again to my place  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will beg my favor:

“Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.  
After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.  
Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,  
and my[a] judgment goes forth as the light.  
For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

## **Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.

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**CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JUNE 7- JUNE 14**

**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, 6/7	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <i>(in-person and livestream)</i> <i>(Scheduled liturgist: Pamela Love)</i>
	11:30 am	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b> (Room 10)
Sun, 6/14	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
	10:30 am	<b>PENTECOST WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <i>(in-person and livestream)</i> <i>(Scheduled liturgist: TBD)</i>
	11:30 am	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b> (Room 10)

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