

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

Join the Worship Service here! → Web: [www.saintjamesweb.org](http://www.saintjamesweb.org)

Facebook: @stjamesmarriottsville

YouTube: pastoringPat

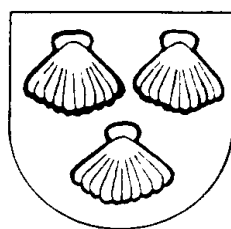


## June 7, 2020 – Deer, Bears, & Unseen Giants: Unafraid 9:30AM ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

---

Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell  
Director of Music: Emma Baker

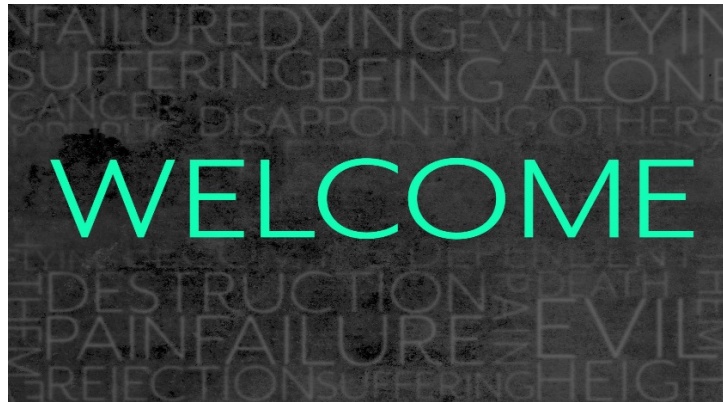
Organist/Pianist: Bonnie Inkman  
Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark



**Saint James**  
**United Methodist Church**  
Marriottsville, MD

# GATHER

## *Expanding Our Hearts*



### **Welcome**

### **Prelude**

“Bach Chorale BWV 95”

*Emma Baker, viola*

### **Centering**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Creator God, how great is your name! All creation sings of your glory, and so do we. You have set your people with honor, even babies join with stars and moon to sing your praise. How great, O God, is your name in all the earth! Amen.**

### **Gathering Song**

“Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose”

**UMH #153**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Thou hidden source of calm repose,<br>thou all-sufficient love divine,<br>my help and refuge from my foes,<br>secure I am if thou art mine;<br>and lo! from sin and grief and shame<br>I hide me, Jesus, in thy name.  | 2. Thy mighty name salvation is,<br>and keeps my happy soul above,<br>comfort it brings, and power and peace<br>and joy and everlasting love;<br>to me with thy dear name are given<br>pardon and holiness and heaven. |
| 3. Jesus, my all in all thou art,<br>my rest in toil, my ease in pain,<br>the healing of my broken heart,<br>in war my peace, in loss my gain,<br>my smile beneath the tyrant's frown,<br>in shame my glory and my crown. | 4. In want my plentiful supply,<br>in weakness my almighty power,<br>in bonds my perfect liberty,<br>my light in Satan's darkest hour,<br>in grief my joy unspeakable,<br>My life in death, my heaven in hell.         |

*The United Methodist Hymnal Number 153*  
*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788*  
*Music: Attr. to Dimitri S. Bortniansky, 1751-1825*  
*Tune: ST. PETERSBURG, Meter: 88.88.88*  
*Public Domain*

## PROCLAIMING

### *Receiving God's Word*

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 41: 10**

***Dessie Moxley, Liturgist***

<sup>10</sup> Don't fear, because I am with you;  
don't be afraid, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you,  
I will surely help you;  
I will hold you  
with my righteous strong hand.

#### **Psalm 56: 3-4**

**3** Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you—  
**4** in God, whose word I praise. I trust in God; I won't be afraid. What can mere flesh do to me?

#### **2 Corinthians 13: 11-13**

<sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, good-bye. Put things in order, respond to my encouragement, be in harmony with each other, and live in peace—and the God of love and peace will be with you.

<sup>12</sup> Say hello to each other with a holy kiss.<sup>[a]</sup> All of God's people say hello to you.

<sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Song**

**"Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace" Handbell Choir**  
***Stephanie Clark, Soloist***



**Witness to the Word**

**"Deer, Bears, & Unseen Giants: Unafraid"**

***Rev. Patricia Abell***

## RESPONDING

### *Transformation of Our Lives*



### **Prayers for God's People, the Church and the World**

You can share your prayer requests at [pastor.stjames@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.stjames@verizon.net) or [stjamessec@verizon.net](mailto:stjamessec@verizon.net)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Offering and Prayer of Dedication of Gifts**

## SENDING FORTH

### *Sharing Compassion for Our World*

### **Closing Song**

"Abide With Me"

**UMH #700**

#### **Verse 1**

Abide with me fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless O abide with me

#### **Verse 2**

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not abide with me

#### **Verse 3**

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r  
Who like Thyself my Guide and Stay can be  
Through cloud and sunshine O abide with me

#### **Verse 4**

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting where grave thy victory  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me

## Verse 5

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies  
Heav'n's morning breaks  
And earth's vain shadows flee  
In life in death O Lord abide with me

CCLI Song # 43190

Henry Francis Lyte | William Henry Monk

© Words: Public Domain

Music: Public Domain

For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://www.ccli.com/terms-of-use). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](https://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License # 2648763

## Benediction Prayer

As we go may your Spirit go before us,  
As we go, may we follow where you lead,  
May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,  
And be a light unto the world as we go.

## Postlude

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

*Emma Baker, viola*



Click here/visit to give online! <https://www.bwcumc.org/churchgiving>



# GROW.PRAY.STUDY.

## Weekly Guide

### “I trust in God; I won’t be afraid”

#### MONDAY 1.9.17 Psalm 56:3-4, 10-11

In 1933 a deep economic depression gripped the United States. In his inaugural address, new President Franklin Roosevelt said, “Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”<sup>1</sup> President Roosevelt was, knowingly or not, following a Biblical tradition. Psalm 56’s expression of deep trust in God was repeated in Psalm 118, sung at the end of Passover *seders*, and quoted in Hebrews 13:5-8. Trusting in God’s unfailing love, the psalmist, Jesus and the early Christians all asked, “What can anyone do to me?”

- Scholar J. Clinton McCann wrote, “The refrain [“What can anyone do to me?”] means that the concept of trust runs throughout the psalm, communicating the reality that trust is everywhere in the life of the psalmist.”<sup>2</sup> In what ways can you plant trust everywhere in your faith life? How does the psalmist’s question speak to any fears you are carrying in your heart?
- When we read the question, “What can anyone do to me?” our first (frightening) thought

may be, “People could do plenty to me.” Only as we look below life’s surface does the psalmist’s question make more sense. What bad, perhaps even malicious, obstacles has God’s presence helped you survive, or even turned to a good purpose? How does that affect your ability to trust God moving forward?

**Prayer:** Lord God, I want to learn to live with the same kind of trust the psalmist expressed. Teach me each day how to put my trust in you whenever I am afraid. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Speech transcript and sound clip found at <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5057>.

<sup>2</sup> J. Clinton McCann, study note on Psalm 56:11 in *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013, p. 901 OT.

### **“Don’t be afraid, for I am your God”**

#### **TUESDAY 1.10.17 Isaiah 41:8-10, 13**

Through Isaiah the prophet, God pledged to strengthen and help any descendant of Abraham willing to join in God’s redemptive mission for the world. Later, the apostle Paul, who counted on God’s strength for his life mission, extended Isaiah’s promise to all Christ followers. “If you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham’s descendants,” he wrote (Galatians 3:29).

- Through the prophet, God offered freedom from fear, and strength and help for our spiritual journey. What are some of the main ways that you go about accessing the promised strength and help? At the start of the year, it’s worth learning or reviewing some of the major spiritual practices many Christians use to connect with God’s power. [Click here](#) for a concise list of them.

- Many scholars believe chapter 40 on in the book of Isaiah spoke to Israelites living through the bitter experience of defeat and exile in Babylon. Few things could make people feel more powerless. What situations are you facing that leave you feeling powerless and afraid? Read today’s passage again, and put your name in place of “Israel,” “Jacob” and “Abraham.” As you do, ask God to speak courage to your heart.

**Prayer:** Lord God, I wish all the bad in our world would just go away right now—but it won’t. But you promise that you can and will ultimately make it all come out right. Give me courage to do my part in working with you. Amen.

### **“Don’t worry”**

#### **WEDNESDAY 1.11.17 Matthew 6:25-27**

Today’s passage may feel radical at first, utterly against simple common sense. That must have been even more of a challenge for Jesus’ first hearers. “Jesus’ audience would have been ordinary peasant people who had to worry about their next meal all the time, yet Jesus tells them not to worry about anything. He asks them instead to view the world with new eyes, in order to see all around them evidence of God’s care and provision.”<sup>1</sup>

- Worry generally focuses our energy and attention either on the past (“I wish...”) or on the future (“What if...”). Jesus called us into the present, the only “time” we can directly affect and use to meet with God. Practice pausing your worries and concerns, and sensing God’s presence with you. Keep doing this (whether you call it “meditating,” “going to your ‘happy place’” or some other name you choose) until you are able to ‘be’ with God anytime, day or night—in the present moment.

- Jesus also made the practical point that worry seldom does any good (verse 27). Can you think of things you spent a lot of time and energy worrying about that never happened? How does worry differ from wise foresight or precautions? What are some more effective, sustainable approaches to life’s challenges than worry?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you modeled a life of peace and trust. Help me to keep learning how to live a life in which my energy can focus on your purposes rather than my fears. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Eugene Eung-Chun Park and Joel B. Green, study note on Matthew 6:25-34 in *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013, p. 17 NT.

### **“Do not be afraid”**

#### **THURSDAY 1.12.17 John 14:25-27**

Describing Jesus’ last night before the cross, John wrote the ominous words, “When Judas took the bread, he left immediately. And it was night” (John 13:30). But the darkness didn’t overcome Jesus, the light of the world. With evil people plotting and Easter’s light only visible by faith, Jesus told his followers that he was leaving them his peace. His peace rested on the Holy Spirit’s presence with them, “not as the world gives.” If they could grasp it firmly, they could find Jesus’ peace even at times of great fear.

- The “fight or flight” response to danger seems to be hard-wired into our brains. Do you believe Jesus promised to wipe that out, or can he just give us a better way to deal with it when something triggers it? Are there places of dark fear and anxiety in your life today? How can Christ’s love and care free your heart and mind to live in the peace he came to give you?
- Scholar William Barclay wrote, “The peace which the world offers us is the peace of escape, the peace which comes from the avoidance of trouble and from refusing to face things. The peace which Jesus offers us is the peace of conquest. No experience of life can ever take it from us and no sorrow, no danger, no suffering can ever make it less. It is independent of outward circumstances.”<sup>1</sup> In what ways have you experienced the difference between the peace Jesus gives and the types of peace the world offers?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for offering me a peace that isn’t temporary, that nothing can take away from me. Now please help me to live into that peace more each day. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> William Barclay, *Daily Study Bible Series: The Gospel of John—Volume 2, Chapters 8–21*, (Revised Edition). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1976, p. 171.

### **“Don’t be anxious about anything”**

#### **FRIDAY 1.13.17 Philippians 4:4-7**

We surely understand peace, don’t we? The apostle Paul’s statement that God’s peace “exceeds all understanding” may make more sense when we realize that he sent this letter from a dank, dreary Roman prison cell (cf. Philippians 1:12-14). Even there, he had God’s peace. And he shared a key he’d found for living in God’s peace: to take anything that might worry him and give it to God in prayer.

- Paul advised, “Don’t be anxious about anything.” Almost as if he heard us saying, “How?” he added, “rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks” (verse 6). What are some things that trigger ugly, anxiety-producing thoughts in you? How can you incorporate Paul’s wisdom about taking those things to God in prayer more fully into your daily life?
- Paul, at peace even in prison, did not say, “I sure was lucky to be born with a peaceful temperament.” Instead, in Philippians 4:11, he said, “I have learned how to be content in any circumstance.” Under what conditions, good or bad, do you find it a struggle to remain in God’s peace? What experiences or examples have helped you learn to make choices or take actions that lead you toward accepting God’s gift of peace?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I want to turn my worries into prayers. I lay before you all the things that

worry me today, and I open my heart to your gifts of peace and contentment. Amen.

**“He cares about you”**

**SATURDAY 1.14.17 1 Peter 5:6-10**

Early Christians faced hostility, ostracism and often persecution. They might be beaten, imprisoned or even executed. Peter wrote a stirring call to those people. As they lived in conditions guaranteed to make people anxious, he urged them to bring all their anxieties to God in trusting prayer. Peter and those early Christians looked beyond the boundaries of this life. They trusted that all earthly struggles are only “for a little while,” while God’s restoration of us to the kind of life humans are meant to live is an eternal reality.

- What does it mean for you to cast all your anxiety on God? In what ways have you learned to trust that God cares for you? In what parts of life, if any, is it still hard for you to trust that? Read John 21:15-19 to see why Peter could say with such confidence that God will restore you, and make you steadfast, strong and firm. Are there failures from which you want God to restore you? Are there areas in which you wish to be more steadfast or strong? Ask God in prayer to work with you to make restoration and strength a reality for you in 2017.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, keep me clear-headed, keep me alert. Let me use those qualities to let you carry my anxieties, rather than trying to carry them myself. Amen.

**Family Activity:** For this activity, you will need a Bible, a sheet of blank wrapping paper or newsprint to cover a doorway in your home, a marker and some tape. Gather together and have someone read Isaiah 41:10 aloud. Discuss why at times it is difficult to be brave, strong and full of faith. Write down everyone’s fears, obstacles and roadblocks on the large piece of paper. When everyone has responded, tape the paper to the doorway. Join together to break through the paper covered in fears and barriers and walk through to the other side. Pray together and ask God to help you remember He is always with you, even through the unsure and scary times.