

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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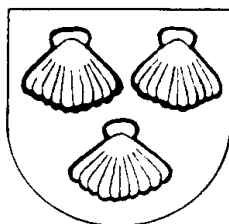
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August 23, 2020 – “Unraveling Identity = Transformation”

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

“Shall We Gather at the River” *offered by Emma Baker, viola*

CCLI Song # 93731

Robert Lowry

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Call to Worship

Debra Bostron, Liturgist

ONE: God of mystery, You called Ananias by name, and he responded,

ALL: “**Here I am.**”

ONE: You called Paul to the work of your Church, and he responded

ALL: **By giving his life to your Word.**

ONE: Similarly, you call us into community and faith,

ALL: **So we respond with love and time, energy and hope.**

ONE: We respond with worship.

ALL: **Let us worship the God of transformation and grace. Amen.**

Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

UMH #196

Verse 1

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Verse 2

Born thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne

CCLI Song # 31999

Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard

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Prayer for Illumination

God of unending surprises, This life is a tapestry of moments woven together, and we long to be weavers of love. Today we gather and pray that you would unravel our bias. Unravel our assumptions. Unravel whatever it is that keeps us from you. And as you do, clear space in our hearts for your Word. We are listening. We are praying. Amen

Centering Moment

PROCLAIMING *Receiving God's Word*

Scripture

Acts 9: 1-20

Debra Bostron, Liturgist

⁹ Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, ² seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?"

⁵ Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. ⁶ "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."

⁷ Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

He answered, "Yes, Lord."

¹¹ The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ Ananias countered, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He's here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name."

¹⁵ The Lord replied, "Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

¹⁷ Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ After eating, he regained his strength.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. ²⁰ Right away, he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. “He is God’s Son,” he declared.



Anthem

“His Name is Jesus”

Derrick Stump, soloist

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Witness to the Word

“Unraveling Identity = Transformation”

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.saintjames@verizon.net or stjamessec@verizon.net

Prayer of Confession

All: God of new life, What would we give to have you appear with a flash of light and a clear voice like you did for Saul? Maybe then, our doubts would disappear. Maybe then, we would live as you called us to live.

However, when our lives depend on faith, we forget your surprising grace.

Instead, we draw lines around enemies and friends, who’s in and who’s out.

We see the “other,” faster than we see our “neighbor,” and refuse second chances.

Pull the scales from our eyes.

Help us see as you see. Help us live as you live, and forgive us when we fail to forgive.

Humbly we pray, Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Debra Bostron, Liturgist

SENDING FORTH

Sharing Compassion for Our World

Closing Song

“Are Ye Able”

UMH #530

Verse 1

"Are ye able," said the Master,
"to be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,
"to the death we follow thee."

Refrain:

Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
A beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

Verse 2

Are ye able to remember,
when a thief lifts up his eyes,
that his pardoned soul is worthy
of a place in paradise?
(Refrain)

Verse 3

Are ye able when the shadows
Close around you with the sod,
To believe that spirit triumphs,
To commend your soul to God?
(Refrain)

Verse 4

Are ye able? Still the Master
whispers down eternity,
and heroic spirits answer,
now as then in Galilee.
(Refrain)

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 530

Text: Earl Marlatt, 1892-

Music: Harry S. Mason, 1881-1964

Tune: BEACON HILL, Meter: Irr.

Benediction Prayer

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Postlude

“God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again” *offered by Emma Baker, viola*

CCLI Song # 497571

Jeremiah Eames Rankin | John Ness Beck | William Gould Tomer

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