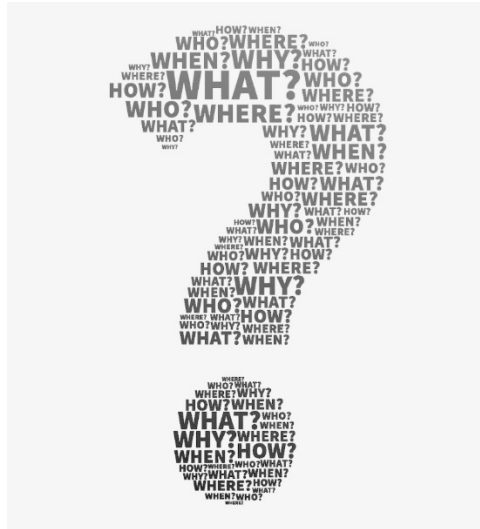


# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

Join the Worship Service here! → Web: [www.saintjamesweb.org](http://www.saintjamesweb.org)  
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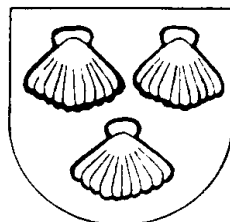
**August 29, 2021**

**“Questions in Faith: What Are the Words of Life?”**

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj      |      Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark  
Director of Music Ministry: Antuan Hairston      |      Organist: Clarice Snyder  
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



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

# WE GATHER

## Prelude

“Solemn Melody” John S. Dixon *offered by Clarice Snyder, organ*

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## Welcome

*Rev. Patricia Abell*

## Introit

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” (vs. 1 & chorus)

**TFWS 2223**

### Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity  
May one day be restored

### Chorus

And they’ll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians  
by our love

## Call to Worship

*Barbara Cook*

ONE: Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

**ALL: Let us worship together, the young and the old.**

ONE: The good news is proclaimed in God’s words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time.

**ALL: Let us worship together, every generation.**

ONE: After months of learning behind screens or separated by dividers and physical space,

**ALL: Let us worship together, with our family of faith.**

ONE: We may still feel uncertain, seeing so many faces again, but we come together seeking God’s peace in this beautiful community.

**ALL: Let us worship together, united in Christ.**

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” (vs.4 & chorus)

**TFWS 2223**

### Verse 4

All praise to the Father  
From whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus  
His only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit  
Who makes us one

### Chorus

And they’ll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians  
by our love

CCLI Song # 26997

Peter Scholtes

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## Opening Prayer

Barbara Cook

God our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us,  
Thank you for the privilege of education. In a year of turmoil, disruption, and loss, we recognize the gift of learning and the gift of teaching in ways we may not have appreciated before. You have blessed our communities with teachers who take new skills and concepts and pass them along to each new class of young people.

God who came as a child to show us how to be fully human, to show us how to be children of God,

You have given our children minds that grow and develop in unique ways, at unique speeds, and we are astounded by that miracle.

You speak to us through the words, actions, play, and feelings of children. You call us to listen to the Spirit speaking through our young siblings in Christ.

We celebrate the beginning of this school year and ask for your blessings upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them.

We come to worship together, to lift up our young people and all those who care for them and teach them. Open our hearts to what you are saying to us today.

Amen.

## Opening Hymn

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

UMH 152

### Verse 1

I sing the mighty power of God  
That made the mountains rise  
That spread the flowin' seas abroad  
And build the lofty skies  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day  
The moon shines full at His command  
And all the stars obey

### Verse 2

I sing the goodness of the Lord  
Who filled the earth with food  
Who formed the creatures thru the Word  
And then pronounced them good  
Lord how Thy wonders are displayed  
Where'er I turn my eye  
If I survey the ground I tread  
Or gaze upon the sky

### Verse 3

There's not a plant or flow'r below  
But makes Thy glories known  
And clouds arise and tempests blow  
By order from Thy throne  
While all that borrows life from Thee  
Is ever in Thy care  
And everywhere that we can be  
Thou God art present there

CCLI Song # 738058

Isaac Watts | Ralph Vaughan Williams

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<sup>17</sup> Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth by his true word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything he created.

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. <sup>20</sup> This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.

<sup>22</sup> You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. <sup>23</sup> Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup> But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.

<sup>26</sup> If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

**Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15,21-23 (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup>The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus <sup>2</sup>and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup>(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup>When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>7</sup>They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' <sup>8</sup>You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

<sup>14</sup>Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup>Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

**Anthem**

"Amazing Grace"

**Laural Clark and Antuan Hairston, vocalists**

Arr. Benjamin Harlan  
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**Message**

"Questions in Faith: What Are the Words of Life?"

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

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

Share your prayer requests at [pastor.saintjames@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.saintjames@verizon.net) or [stjamessec@verizon.net](mailto:stjamessec@verizon.net) or write requests on prayer slips provided and place in the Giving Box.

**Response: *Loving God, hold us and our prayers.***

### The Lord's Prayer

### Mission Moment

Blessing of Backpacks and Food Pantry

### Offering Invitation and Prayer

### Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**UMH 94**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God All creatures here below  
Alleluia alleluia  
Praise God the source of all our gifts  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit  
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

CCLI Song # 3063266

Gilbert H. Vieira | Ralph Vaughan Williams | Thomas Ken

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### Closing Hymn

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

**TFWS 2153**

1 I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Arranger: Wendall Whalum  
African American Spiritual  
© Estate of Wendall Whalum

### Benediction

### Postlude

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

(Adaptation of the Hymn by Richard Bradley and Clarice Snyder)

***Offered by Clarice Snyder, piano***



Please mail your tithes and offerings to Saint James UMC,  
12470 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

### **Questions for Reflection**

*How can we know the difference between human tradition and the commandments of God?  
How can we know that we serve God from the heart?*

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

*Lord Jesus, help me  
To walk blamelessly and do what is right,  
to speak the truth in love,  
to avoid gossip and slander,  
and do good to all I meet.  
May I abide in your presence and dwell in fellowship with the Holy Trinity. Amen.*

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

*Lord, you have been my light this day.  
As evening comes, be my light in the darkness.  
With meekness I welcome the word you have implanted in my heart,  
and with confidence I claim the power of salvation in Jesus Christ.  
Let me rest from my labors,  
confident that in you there is no shadow of fear. Amen.*

### **RESOURCES:**

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