

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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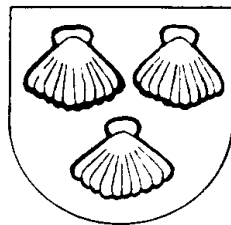
**October 3, 2021**

**“Hearts on Fire: Stronger Together”**

**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

“How Firm a Foundation”

*Offered by Clarice Snyder, piano*

John Purifoy

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## Welcome

*Rev. Patricia Abell*

## Call to Worship

*Mary Anne Espenshade*

ONE: From troubled times and difficult walks,  
**we come to the arms of Christ.**  
From separate journeys and diverse experiences,  
**we gather to worship as one.**  
As brothers and sisters in Christ,  
**we come to God, who welcomes us here.**

## Opening Prayer

**Holy God, as we gather in your glorious presence, come and make us holy. Guide us this day, that we may receive your teachings and walk in your truth, even as we welcome others on the journey with us. Strengthen our holy communion, that we may create a community of belonging, where all are included, and where your grace binds us together in unity and love. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

*UMH 277*

### Verse 1

Tell me the stories  
Of Jesus I love to hear  
Things I would ask Him  
To tell me if He were here  
Scenes by the wayside  
Tales of the sea  
Stories of Jesus tell them to me

### Verse 2

First let me hear how the children  
stood round his knee  
And I shall fancy His blessing  
resting on me  
Words full of kindness  
deeds full of grace  
All in the lovelight of Jesus' face

### Verse 3

Into the city  
I'd follow the children's band  
Waving a branch of the palm tree  
High in my hand  
One of His heralds  
Yes I would sing  
Loudest hosanna's Jesus is King

CCLI Song # 2627445

William Henry Parker

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Scripture

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 (CEB)

Mary Anne Espenshade

1 In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. <sup>2</sup> In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son. God made his Son the heir of everything and created the world through him. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the light of God's glory and the imprint of God's being. He maintains everything with his powerful message. After he carried out the cleansing of people from their sins, he sat down at the right side of the highest majesty. <sup>4</sup> And the Son became so much greater than the other messengers, such as angels, that he received a more important title than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> God didn't put the world that is coming (the world we are talking about) under the angels' control.

<sup>6</sup> Instead, someone declared somewhere,

*What is humanity that you think about them?*

*Or what are the human beings that you care about them?*

<sup>7</sup> *For a while you made them lower than angels.*

*You crowned the human beings with glory and honor.*

<sup>8</sup> *You put everything under their control.*<sup>[a]</sup>

When he puts everything under their control, he doesn't leave anything out of control. But right now, we don't see everything under their control yet. <sup>9</sup> However, we do see the one who was made lower in order than the angels for a little while—it's Jesus! He's the one who is now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of his death. He suffered death so that he could taste death for everyone through God's grace.

<sup>10</sup> It was appropriate for God, for whom and through whom everything exists, to use experiences of suffering to make perfect the pioneer of salvation. This salvation belongs to many sons and daughters whom he's leading to glory. <sup>11</sup> This is because the one who makes people holy and the people who are being made holy all come from one source. That is why Jesus isn't ashamed to call them brothers and sisters when he says,

<sup>12</sup> *I will publicly announce your name to my brothers and sisters.*

*I will praise you in the middle of the assembly.*<sup>[b]</sup>

**Mark 10: 2-16 (CEB)**

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and, trying to test him, they asked, "Does the Law allow a man to divorce his wife?"

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "What did Moses command you?"

<sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a divorce certificate and to divorce his wife."

<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "He wrote this commandment for you because of your unyielding hearts. <sup>6</sup> At the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female.*<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup> *Because of this, a man should leave his father and mother and be joined together with his wife,* <sup>8</sup> *and the two will be one flesh.*<sup>[b]</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, humans must not pull apart what God has put together."

<sup>10</sup> Inside the house, the disciples asked him again about this. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup> and if a wife divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them.

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children. <sup>15</sup> I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

## **Anthem**

“Come As a Child”

**Chancel Choir**

Come As A Child, Mark Wilson/Jane Foster Knox  
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## **Message**

“Stronger Together”

**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.

Knowing the grace of Jesus Christ, we entrust our lives to God, saying:  
We are your children; **hear our prayer.**

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

## **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  
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## **Holy Communion**

## **Communion Hymn**

“Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join”

**UMH 699**

### **Verse 1**

Come and let us sweetly join  
Christ to praise in hymns divine

### **Verse 2**

Hands and hearts and voices raise  
Sing as in the ancient days

Give we all with one accord  
Glory to our common Lord

Antedate the joys above  
Celebrate the feast of love

### Verse 3

Jesus dear expected Guest  
Thou art bidden to the feast  
For thyself our hearts prepare  
Come and rest and banquet there

### Verse 4

Sanctify us Lord and bless  
Breathe thy Spirit give thy peace  
Thou thyself within us move  
Make our feast a feast of love

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Charles Wesley  
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## Closing Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

**UMH 529**

### Verse 1

How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word  
What more can He say than to you He hath said  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

### Verse 2

Fear not I am with thee o be not dismayed  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid  
I'll strengthen and help thee and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand

### Verse 3

When through the deep waters I call thee to go  
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow  
For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

### Verse 4

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie  
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply  
The flame shall not hurt thee I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine

### Verse 5

The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose  
I will not I will not desert to its foes  
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake  
I'll never no never no never forsake

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Unknown

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## Benediction

## Postlude

“Toccata in A Minor”

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12470 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

**Question for Reflection**

*We were created to live in relationship—with neighbors, friends, loved ones, and above all with God. Think about the relationships in your life. Where do you find help and partnership (Gen. 2:18)?*

*Where do you feel the strain of separation (Mark 10:9)?*

*Who do you allow to get close to you, and who do you turn away (Mark 10:13–16)?*

*In what ways do those relationships reflect your relationship with God?*

**Household Prayer: Morning**

*God of heavenly glory,  
brighter than the midday sun,  
as each day tells your wonder,  
may the words of my mouth be acceptable to you,  
my rock and my redeemer. Amen.*

**Household Prayer: Evening**

*God of heavenly glory,  
deeper than the midnight dark,  
as each night sings your mystery,  
may the dreams of my heart be acceptable to you,  
my rock and my redeemer. Amen.*

**RESOURCES:**

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