

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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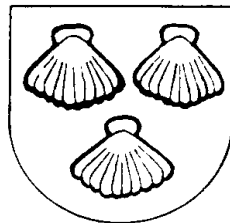
**January 2, 2022**

**“The Light”**

**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

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Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



**Saint James United Methodist Church**

Marriottsville, MD

# WE GATHER

**Prelude**

“Gesù Bambino” Pietro A. Yon

**Offered by Jane Olmacher, piano and Clarice Snyder, organ**

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**Welcome**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Approaching the Threshold**

“Come and Find the Quiet Center” (vs. 1)

**TFWS 2128**

## Verse 1

Come and find the quiet center  
In the crowded life we lead  
Find the room for hope to enter  
Find the frame where we are freed  
Clear the chaos and the clutter  
Clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter  
Be at peace and simply be

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**Call to Worship**

**Debra Bostron**

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

**LET US Proclaim God’s praise among the nations.**

**Crossing the Threshold**

“Come and Find the Quiet Center” (vs. 2)

**TFWS 2128**

## Verse 2

Silence is a friend who claims us  
Cools the heat and slows the pace  
God it is who speaks and names us  
Knows our being touches base  
Making space within our thinking  
Lifting shades to show the sun  
Raising courage when we're shrinking  
Finding scope for faith begun

## Opening Prayer

**Bright, shining Maker of visions and dreams, the good news of your love lights up the world with radiant glory. Like the Magi who followed a star to welcome the newborn Christ, help us follow the star of your love and bring gifts of wholeness and peace to a world that is broken and in pain. Empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord. Amen**

ONE: The **PEACE** of Christ be with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

## Opening Hymn

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

**UMH 220**

### Verse 1

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

### Chorus

Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

### Verse 2

Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light

### Chorus

### Verse 3

Sages leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations  
Ye have seen his natal star

### Chorus

### Verse 4

Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In His temple shall appear

## A Cookie Moment

## Candle

## Edie Candee

## Scripture

### Isaiah 60:1-6 (CEB)

60 Arise! Shine! Your light has come;  
the LORD's glory has shone upon you.

<sup>2</sup> Though darkness covers the earth  
and gloom the nations,  
the LORD will shine upon you;  
God's glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light  
and kings to your dawning radiance.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look all around:  
they are all gathered; they have come to you.

Your sons will come from far away,  
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.

<sup>5</sup> Then you will see and be radiant;  
your heart will tremble and open wide,  
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;  
the nations' wealth will come to you.

<sup>6</sup> Countless camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.

They will all come from Sheba,  
carrying gold and incense,  
proclaiming the LORD's praises.

### Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. <sup>4</sup> He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel.*"<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Verse 1

Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes  
I love thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

Verse 3

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

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Message

“The Light”

Rev. Patricia Abell

Leading Into Prayer

“Come and Find the Quiet Center” (vs. 3)

TFWS 2128

Verse 3

In the Spirit let us travel  
Open to each other's pain  
Let our lives and fears unravel  
Celebrate the space we gain  
There's a place for deepest dreaming  
There's a time for heart to care  
In the Spirit's lively scheming  
There is always room to spare

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**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.

[A time of silence is kept after each petition.]

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

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Holy Communion

Closing Hymn

“We Are Marching”

TFWS 2235b

We are marching in the light of God  
we are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God  
we are marching in the light of God  
We are marching,  
we are marching in the light of God  
We are marching,  
we are marching in the light of God

Words and Music: South Africa (20<sup>th</sup> cent.)  
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Benediction

Postlude

"Christ, Be Our Light" arr. Sally Drennan Mossing

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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**Questions for Reflection**

*In Epiphany when the magi make their great journey to see the Christ Child, we see Jesus drawing all creation to the divine life revealed in him, and we see the realization of God’s dream of reconciled creation. In our own way, we are each endowed by the Spirit with unique and precious gifts for sharing God’s healing love in a good but often divided world.*

*What spiritual practices do you engage in that allow you to stay peaceful, courteous, and develop a respectful regard for difference?*

*How do you stay present and create openness for finding, revealing, and activating God's reconciling love in the world?*

**Household Prayer: Morning**

*Glorious God, each day provides opportunity*

*to awaken to the radiance of your presence, and to welcome your blessing into my life.*

*How often I forget that I am your home!*

*Help me to draw more closely to you, that I may manifest your love more deeply in the world.*

*May every bright place and darkened corner grow ever more luminous as I bear your light this day. Amen.*

**Household Prayer: Evening**

*Holy Jesus, I thank you for sharing your life with me today.*

*As darkness comes and blankets the earth, be with all who suffer from sickness, hunger, or lack of shelter.*

*Kindle in them the warmth of your presence, and surround them with your steadfast care.*

*I am grateful for the blessings of this day.*

*And in the light of your love I rest this night. Amen.*

**RESOURCES:**

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