

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

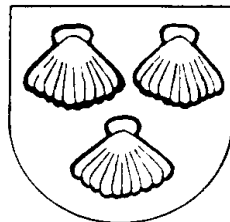
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December 25, 2022
Christmas Day
9:30 am
“Surprisingly Sacred”

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

“Variations on In Dulci Jublio”
Offered by Clarice Snyder

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“In Dulci Jublio: (Canon and Variations)”
Offered by Susan Day, flute, and Clarice Snyder, organ

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Crossing the Threshold

reflecting on the sacred

Rev. Patricia Abell

Sung Response

Come and Find the Quiet Center

TFWS 2128

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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Lighting of the Christ Candle

Mary Anne Espenshade

ONE: We pray for comfort this day. **ALL: We pray for comfort this day.**
We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.
We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.
ONE: We open to see each thing that is born
ALL: We open to see each thing that is born
ONE: as a gift of holy presence. **ALL: as a gift of holy presence.**
ONE: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery, **ALL: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,**
ONE: lighting the way to calm. **ALL: lighting the way to calm.**

Congregational Chorus

Come and Find the Quiet Center

TFWS 2128

**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.**

Prayer

Rev. Patricia Abell

**Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Calm,
we give you thanks for this physical and online space for gathering.
As we take in the comfort you offer,
may we be a reflection of your light,
expanding the sacred sense of surprise
into the sacred sacred sense of purpose.
Amen.**

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord

Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1 & 2)

UMH 234

1. O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

Chorus

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

2. True God of true God
Light from Light Eternal
Lo he shuns not the Virgin's womb
Son of the Father
Begotten not created

Chorus

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

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The First Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Mary Anne Espenshade

Carol

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (vs. 1 & 4)

UMH 218

1. It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

4. For lo the days are hastening on
By prophet seen of old
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing

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The Second Lesson

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Rev. Patricia Abell

Carol

“Joy to the World” (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

UMH 246

1. Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

2. Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rock hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love
And wonders of his love
And wonders wonders of his love

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The Third Lesson

Matthew 1: 1-17

Mary Anne Espenshade

Carol

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

UMH 216

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

3. O flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

Theodore Baker (1894) Harmonizer: Michael Praetorius (1609)
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The Fourth Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38

Rev. Patricia Abell

Carol

“As Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” (vs. 1 – 4)

UMH 236

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground;
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.

2. Fear not said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all of humankind,
to all of humankind.

3. "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign,
and this shall be the sign:"

4, The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid,
and in a manger laid.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 236
Text: Nahum Tate, 1652-1715
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The Fifth Lesson

Matthew 1: 18-25

Mary Anne Espenshade

Carol

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1 & 4)

UMH 211

1. O come O Come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee
O Israel

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree
An ensign of thy people be
Before thee rulers silent fall
All peoples on thy mercy call
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee
O Israel

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The Sixth Lesson

Luke 1: 39-58

Rev. Patricia Abell

Carol

“Canticle of the Turning”
Offered by Rev. Patricia Abell and Clarice Snyder

Rory Cooney
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The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

Mary Anne Espenshade

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH 230

1. O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

2. For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to all on earth

3. How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

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The Eighth Lesson

Luke 2: 8-20

Rev. Patricia Abell

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

UMH 238

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

2. Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels praise
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Refrain

Refrain

4. See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

Refrain

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The Ninth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

Mary Anne Espenshade

Carol

“The First Noel” (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

UMH 245

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

3. And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went
Noel, Noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

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Prayer for the World

Rev. Patricia Abell

Let us pray for the world in which the Prince of Peace took flesh
and form, saying, hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

*Doxology

(sung to the tune of "What Child Is This")

UMH 219

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God all heavens and the earth reflecting the sacred story.
This, this is Christ the One who mirrors love for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.

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Affirmation of Faith *(based on John 1:1-14)*

Rev. Patricia Abell

In the beginning was the Word,
**and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him,
yet the world did not know him.**

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who

believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.**

***Closing Hymn**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

UMH 251

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

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***Benediction**

Postlude

“Carol of the Bells” (Mykola Leontovych)

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Questions for Reflection

Where has the light that enlightens the world been shining in your life this year?

What aspects of the life around you have you been most drawn to notice?

What is Christ's light showing you in those people and events?

How is it changing your relationship with yourself and with other people?

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious and Holy God, I thank you for the darkness and the light, for sleeping and waking,
for the privilege of safety and shelter, of warmth and health,
and I ask your help for all who do not have these comforts.

Guide me on this holy day to pray for your world with a whole heart
and to see in myself, and in family, friends, neighbors, and strangers, what you see: each one a beloved child.
Give me wisdom this day to rejoice in your gifts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of Earth and all stars,
thank you for this day when you call all people to gather in your loving embrace,
by many names and traditions, in lands far and near.

Thank you for the rejoicing in my life, and for your promise of steadfast love when my days are hard with
sorrows.

Surround me now with the love that will not let me go, and give me rest, in Jesus' name. Amen

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