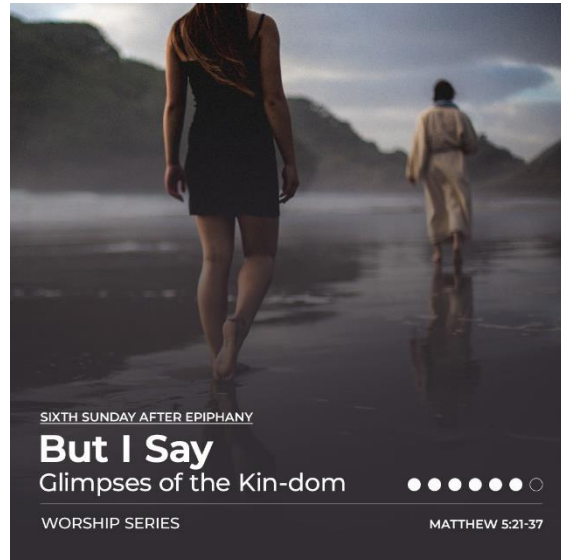


SJUMC Online Worship Guide

Join the Worship Service here! → Web: www.saintjamesweb.org
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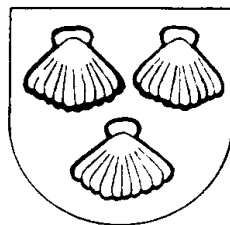


February 12, 2023

9:30 am
“But I Say”

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 "Prelude on Slane" (Be Thou My Vision) arr. by Gordon Young

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Introit

"Keep Your Lamps" arr. Andre Thomas

Chancel Choir

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Call to Worship

Mary Anne Espenshade

Come, walk in the way that leads to life.

It is better to be reconciled with another than to be proven right.

Come, choose to live a genuine life.

Life is too short for petty resentments.

Come, walk in the way Christ invites us to travel.

We give thanks for Christ's way, and for the freedom to follow!

Opening Prayer

Mary Anne Espenshade

Open our eyes, Holy Spirit, to your love in our midst.

We give you thanks for the power of our minds to choose right over wrong.

Guide us now, that this power may not overwhelm, but inspire us.

Help us choose compassion for ourselves and others.

Teach us to set aside old resentments and grudges.

Lift us, with all earth's children and all your creation, to aspire to the abundant life Christ brings.

Amen.

Call to Confession

Mary Anne Espenshade

ONE: Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

Prayer of Confession

Mary Anne Espenshade

God of grace and glory, you are ever ready to forgive and free us from our burdens.

Forgive us for judging ourselves and others harshly.

Free us from the times we have made others stumble.

Forgive us for lifting ourselves up by putting others down.

Free us from self-condemnation and regret.

With every breath we take, help us choose to live in Christ's ways.

This we pray in your holy name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Mary Anne Espenshade

ONE: God delights when we choose to leave self-destructive ways behind.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Opening Hymn

“I Want a Principle Within”

UMH 410

1. I want a principle within
of watchful, godly fear,
a sensibility of sin,
a pain to feel it near.
I want the first approach to feel
of pride or wrong desire,
to catch the wandering of my will,
and quench the kindling fire.

2. From thee that I no more may stray
no more thy goodness grieve,
grant me the filial awe, I pray,
The tender conscience give.
Quick as the apple of an eye,
O God, my conscience make;
awake my soul when sin is nigh,
And keep it still awake.

3. Almighty God of truth and love,
to me thy power impart;
the mountain from my soul remove,
the hardness from my heart.
O may the least omission pain
my reawakened soul,
and drive me to that blood again,
which makes the wounded whole.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1749 | Music Louis Spohr, 1834; adapt. By J. Stimpson
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Time for Children

Edie Candee

Scripture

Matthew 5:21–48 (CEB)

Mary Anne Espenshade

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, *Don’t commit murder*,^[a] and all who commit murder will be in danger of judgment. ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgment. If they say to their brother or sister, ‘You idiot,’ they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they say, ‘You fool,’ they will be in danger of fiery hell.

²³ Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift at the altar and go. First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift. ²⁵ Be sure to make friends quickly with your opponents while you are with them on the way to court. Otherwise, they will haul you before the judge, the judge will turn you over to the officer of the court, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I say to you in all seriousness that you won’t get out of there until you’ve paid the very last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, *Don’t commit adultery*.^[b] ²⁸ But I say to you that every man who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart. ²⁹ And if your right eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body go into hell.

³¹ “It was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must *give her a divorce certificate*.^[c] ³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife except for sexual unfaithfulness forces her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago: *Don’t make a false solemn pledge, but you should follow through on what you have pledged to the Lord*.^[d] ³⁴ But I say to you that you must not

pledge at all. You must not pledge by heaven, because it's God's throne. ³⁵ You must not pledge by the earth, because it's God's footstool. You must not pledge by Jerusalem, because it's the city of the great king. ³⁶ And you must not pledge by your head, because you can't turn one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your *yes* mean yes, and your *no* mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*^[e] ³⁹ But I say to you that you must not oppose those who want to hurt you. If people slap you on your right cheek, you must turn the left cheek to them as well. ⁴⁰ When they wish to haul you to court and take your shirt, let them have your coat too. ⁴¹ When they force you to go one mile, go with them two. ⁴² Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, *You must love your neighbor*^[f] and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you ⁴⁵ so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete.

Hymn "The Servant Song" **TFWS 2222**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Brother sister let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant too | 2. We are pilgrims on a journey
We're together on this road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load |
| 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear | 4. I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through |
| 5. When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony | 6. Brother sister let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant too |

CCLI Song # 72673

Richard Gillard

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Message "Glimpses of God's Kin-dom: But I Say" **Rev. Patricia Abell**

Prayer for God's People, Church, & World

Response: Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

Lord's Prayer

*Please stand as able

***Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
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

UMH 94

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Offering Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

“Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”

UMH 671

1. Lord dismiss us with thy blessing
Fill our hearts with joy and peace
Let us each thy love possessing
Triumph in redeeming grace
O refresh us O refresh us
Travelling through this wilderness

2. Thanks we give and adoration
For thy gospel’s joyful sound
May the fruits of thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound
Ever faithful ever faithful
To the truth may we be found

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John Fawcett
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***Benediction**

Postlude “Benedictus on "Sicilian Mariners" (Lord Dismiss Us with thy Blessing) arr by Gordon Young

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

Today’s readings speak of blessings and curses, life and death, good relationships and those that are broken. Moreover, the texts suggest that we have a choice in these matters. Where do you find life, and where do you not—and what role do your choices play? Where have you experienced broken relationships in your own life or in the church? How do Christ and the reign of heaven enable us to move beyond brokenness and live in mutual support?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord, as I begin this new day, give me understanding, that I may observe your law of love. Lead me in the path of righteousness and teach me to delight in your way. Turn my heart to your word and help me forsake selfish gain. Confirm your promise in my heart and lead me to eternal life with Christ my Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Jesus, it is night, and night is for sleeping; yet, my mind is racing fast. I give thanks for you, Lord, I am not perfect. By your grace, let me receive your perfecting love and know your commandments, not as an impossible achievement, but as a life-giving promise, the hope of life eternal. Amen.

RESOURCES:

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Glimpses of the Kin-dom worship series after Epiphany. Discipleship Ministries, 2023. Used with permission.

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