

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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**February 26, 2023**

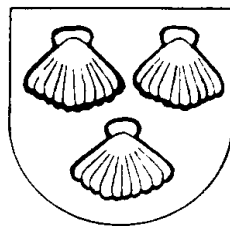
**9:30 am**

**“Who will you listen to?”**

**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 “Forty Days and Forty Nights” (Aus Der Tiefe – Out of the Depths) Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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**Welcome**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Introit**

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

**Handbell Choir**

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**Call to Worship**

**Antuan Hairston**

ONE: Listen!

**ALL: There is hope to be found here.**

Listen!

**God calls you by name here.**

Listen!

**There is love that abides here.**

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

**God is speaking.**

Let us worship.

**Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

**Antuan Hairston**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Antuan Hairston**

**Holy God, Too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it’s convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

**Antuan Hairston**

So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved!

**I am loved!**

I am held in grace!

**I am held in grace!**

I belong to God.

**I belong to God.**

Amen.

**Passing the Peace : The Peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!**

## Opening Hymn

### “Who will you listen to?” LEONI (“The God of Abraham Praise”)

The voices from the past  
That echo through our minds  
Like noisy ghosts haunt and harass  
With words unkind  
Who will we listen to?  
Lies that bind and abase?  
Or God who counters words untrue  
With words of grace?

Society demands  
We always strive for more  
Accumulating wealth and land  
And leave the poor  
Who will we listen to?  
The tempter’s jealousy?  
Or God’s provision and pursuit  
Of equity?

A rushing flood of hate  
In news we often see  
Conceals God’s kingdom in a great  
Cacophony  
Who will we listen to?  
The chaos all around?  
Or God’s dream of a world made new  
Where love abounds?

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## Time for Children

*Jelinda Blum*

## Scripture

**Matthew 4:1-11, Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

*Antuan Hairston*

### **Matthew 4:1-11**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted<sup>[a]</sup> by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’<sup>[b]</sup>”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’<sup>[c]</sup>”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’<sup>[d]</sup>”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

### **Genesis 2:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

### **Genesis 3: 1-7**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**Anthem** “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” **Handbell Choir**

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**Message** **SEEKING: Who Will You Listen To?** **Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Response to the Word – Affirmation of Faith** **Rev. Patricia Abell**

In a world full of noise,

**We believe that God is speaking.**

In a world full of chaos,

**We believe that God is singing.**

In a world full of temptation,

**We believe that God is healing.**

Church, who will you listen to?

**We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.**

Church, what will you listen for?

**We will listen for water in the desert,**

**for the wind of the Spirit,**

**for the laughter of children,**

**for the sound of open doors,**

**and for God’s voice, who calls us beloved. Amen.**

**Prayer for God’s People, Church, & World** **Antuan Hairston**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Offertory**

“I Wonder as I Wander”

**Handbell Choir**

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**\*Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**UMH 95**

**Offering Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Where He Leads Me”

**UMH 338**

**Verse 1**

I can hear my Savior calling  
I can hear my Savior calling  
I can hear my Savior calling  
Take thy cross and follow follow Me

**Chorus**

Where He leads me I will follow  
Where He leads me I will follow  
Where He leads me I will follow  
I'll go with Him with Him all the way

**Verse 2**

I'll go with Him through the garden  
I'll go with Him through the garden  
I'll go with Him through the garden  
I'll go with Him with Him all the way

**Verse 3**

I'll go with Him through the judgment  
I'll go with Him through the judgment  
I'll go with Him through the judgment  
I'll go with Him with Him all the way

**Verse 4**

He will give me grace and glory  
He will give me grace and glory  
He will give me grace and glory  
And go with me with me all the way

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**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

“If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee” J. S. Bach  
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**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

### **Questions for Reflection**

*In some traditions, Christians are urged to “give up something for Lent.” Others decide to “take on” something for Lent—a new spiritual practice, a special form of service to others, or a goal of reading Scripture daily. The Ash Wednesday readings from Isaiah and Matthew particularly invite us to “take on” something—justice, service to others, prayer, fasting, etc.*

*What might you take on for Lent as a way of deepening your faithfulness before God?*

*How might you grow in faith and draw near to Jesus through the forty days of Lent?*

*Let Jesus’ three responses to the devil be your guide: (1) study Scripture (live by the Word of God; Matt. 4:4); (2) seek reconciliation with God and others (do not put God to the test; Matt. 4:7); and (3) be active and intentional about participating in the worship of your congregation (worship the Lord your God; Matt. 4:10).*

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

*Holy God, as this day surrounds me like a garden with a thousand trees, give me enough knowledge to obey your commandments, and to choose the fruit that gives life: the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

*Where can I hide from you, O God? You have found me here, stained with the fruit of desire, shivering in the evening breeze. This is all I ask: wrap me in your mercy, and let me rest in your presence; for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord.. Amen.*

### **RESOURCES:**

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

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