

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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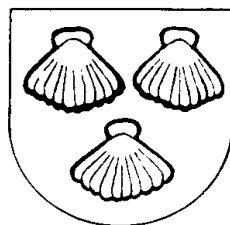
April 2, 2023

9:30 am

“Where are you headed?”

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 "All Glory Laud and Honor" (Hymnal 280) settings by A. W. Leupold, A. Guilmant

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Introit

"Who Is He" (vs. 1)

W & S 3082

1. Who is He who comes in triumph
Who is He who comes to die
Comes in peace and comes in power
Hidden One now lifted high
Jesus Jesus Lord Messiah
Mighty master of the grave
See Him ride the King of Glory
God Himself has come to save

CCLI Song # 4306348

Edward Hodges | Ken Bible | Ludwig van Beethoven

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Opening Litany

A: Where is he going?

B: Isn't he from Nazareth?

C: Can anything good come from Nazareth?

ALL: Is he headed to Jerusalem?

A: Do you think Jerusalem is safe?

B: Does he know that Pilate is here?

C: Where is he going?

ALL: Does he know the city is dangerous?

A: Does he see the Pharisees watching?

B: Is this the one we've been waiting for?

C: Could this be the Messiah?

ALL: Where is he going?

A: The crowds are singing, "Hosanna!"

B: Should I lay down my cloak?

C: Is this the beginning of the end?

ALL: Should we follow?

A: Should we watch?

B: Should we sing, "Hosanna"?

C: Stay awake!

A: He's on the move.

B: Where is he going?

C: Listen.

ALL: Where is he going?

A: Watch.

B: Where is he going?

C: Stay close.

ALL: Where is he going?

A: Sing, "Hosanna."

ALL: Hosanna! Amen.

Call to Confession

Nancy Everstine

Prayer of Confession

Matthew 21:1-11

Nancy Everstine

ONE: As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

ALL: God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who can go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.

ONE: This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

"Say to Daughter Zion,

'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

ALL: God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us. You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.

ONE: The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

ALL: Creator God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.

ONE: The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

ALL: Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, "Hosanna!"

ONE: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

ALL: With hope in our hearts we pray to you, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Nancy Everstine

Family of faith, there will be days when we withhold our praise.

There will be days when we dare not follow.

There will be days when we ignore God's call, when we choose comfort over courage,
and ourselves over others.

But even on those days, even on our worst days, we belong to God.

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Nothing can separate us from God's love. We are loved, forgiven, and sent out to serve.

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

Opening Hymn

“Who Is He” (vs. 2 & 3)

W & S 3082

2. See Him there in humble splendor
Hear them shouting all around
Joy explodes in wild procession
Praise is now the victor's crown
Glory glory in the highest
Like the angels hear them sing
Dancing round the Long-awaited
Once their hope and now their King

3. Rise and join the glad procession
Hear them passing by again
All the ransomed all his children
Marching to Jerusalem
Look ahead the gates of splendor
Hear the everlasting hymn
Open wide your hearts in worship
Let the King of glory in

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Time for Children

Jelinda Blum

Scripture

Philippians 2:5–11 (CEB)

Mary Anne Espenshade

⁵ Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Though he was in the form of God,
he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.

⁷ But he emptied himself
by taking the form of a slave
and by becoming like human beings.

When he found himself in the form of a human,

⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God highly honored him
and gave him a name above all names,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus everyone
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow

¹¹ and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Anthem

“Ride On, King Jesus”

Chancel Choir

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Message

SEEKING: Where are you headed?

Rev. Patricia Abell

Response to the Word – Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Patricia Abell

**We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world’s suffering,
who lights a candle in the darkest night,**

who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.
 We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth,
 who is bold in seeking justice,
 and humble in taking power.
 We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it,
 cocooning us in hope,
 tethering us to one another.
 We believe in a God who is always carrying us
 from the pain of the world
 into the hope of a new day.
 That is where God is headed.
 That is where we follow.
 May it be so.
 Amen.

Prayer for God's People, Church, & World

Mary Anne Espenshade

Response: God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

***Doxology**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 95

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Offering Prayer

Holy Communion

***Closing Hymn**

"Hallelujah! What a Savior"

UMH 165

1. Man of sorrows what a name
 For the Son of God who came
 Ruined sinners to reclaim
 Hallelujah what a Savior

2. Bearing shame and scoffing rude
 In my place condemned he stood
 Sealed my pardon with his blood
 Hallelujah what a Savior

3. Guilty vile and helpless we
 Spotless Lamb of God was He
 Full atonement can it be
 Hallelujah what a Savior

4. Lifted up was he to die
 It is finished was his cry
 Now in heaven exalted high
 Hallelujah what a Savior

5. When He comes our glorious King
 All His ransomed home to bring
 Then anew this song we'll sing
 Hallelujah what a Savior

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*Please stand as able

Benediction

Postlude

"The Royal Banners Forward Go (Vexilla regis)" setting by Ludwig Lenel

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

*As this week unfolds, spend some time each day pondering the mind of Christ.
What is the shape of his compassion? Describe the image of such great love.
Finally, what does it feel like, physically, to be so utterly cared for?*

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise, O God, awakened by your Word, to live another day. Lead me in your path. Show me the steps to take toward greater faith. Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week where the shadows deepen even in the daylight. Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I come to the darkness of night, O God, tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care. Keep me safe from all harm, and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength. In Jesus' holy name, I pray. 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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