

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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**March 12, 2023**

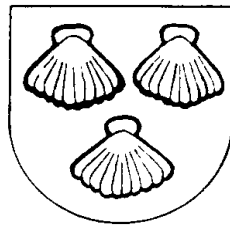
**9:30 am**

**“Will you give me a drink?”**

**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** “Christe, du Lamm Gottes” (Christ, you Lamb of God) J. S. Bach, Gottfried Mueller  
*Offered by Clarice Snyder*

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**Welcome**

*Rev. Patricia Abell*

**Introit**

“You Who Are Thirsty”

*TFWS 2132*

You who are thirsty  
Come to the well and drink  
From waters flowing  
You who are hungry  
Come to the bread and eat  
Of His holiness  
You who are tired find rest  
You who are weak find strength  
You who are thirsty  
Come to the well and drink  
  
He will freely feed  
All of them who are weak  
He will quench the righteous thirst  
Of all who humbly seek

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**Call to Worship**

*Nancy Janson*

ONE: We gather together—  
**ALL: the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,  
in hopes of seeing God.**  
We gather together—  
**the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,  
in hopes of finding peace.**  
We gather together—  
**those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,  
in hopes of finding justice.**  
So come to the well, come to the table.  
Come, let us worship God. Amen.

**Call to Confession**

*Nancy Janson*

## Prayer of Confession

*Nancy Janson*

**Holy God, we have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well. So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors? How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change? How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work? Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

*Nancy Janson*

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine:

we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.

This is the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace is deeper than any well. We are seen, loved, and forgiven.  
May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.**

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

**Opening Hymn** "We All Come Thirsty" ST. COLUMBIA ("The King of Love My Shepherd Is")

1. We all come thirsty to the well  
To seek the living water  
With wounds and pasts we'd rather hide  
But letting our hearts soften

2. Through differences our hands can reach  
To care and hold each other  
There are no strangers for they are  
Our siblings, sisters, brothers

3. We care for God's community  
Our mutual aid shared freely  
To all we give as we receive  
With grace and loving deeply

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## Time for Children

*Debra Bostron*

## Scripture

**Exodus 17: 1-7 (CEB)**

*Nancy Janson*

17 The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the LORD commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people argued with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the LORD?"

<sup>3</sup> But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

<sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me."

<sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. <sup>6</sup> I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah<sup>[a]</sup> and Meribah,<sup>[b]</sup> because the Israelites argued with and tested the LORD, asking, “Is the LORD really with us or not?”

**John 4: 5-42 (CEB)**

**Nancy Janson**

<sup>5</sup> He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

<sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me some water to drink.” <sup>8</sup> His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman asked, “Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (Jews and Samaritans didn’t associate with each other.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus responded, “If you recognized God’s gift and who is saying to you, ‘Give me some water to drink,’ you would be asking him and he would give you living water.”

<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you don’t have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.”

<sup>17</sup> The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

“You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered. <sup>18</sup> “You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.”

<sup>19</sup> The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” <sup>28</sup> The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

<sup>31</sup> In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

<sup>33</sup> The disciples asked each other, “Has someone brought him food?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. <sup>35</sup> Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four more months and then it’s time for harvest’? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. <sup>36</sup> Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. <sup>37</sup> This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. <sup>38</sup> I have sent you to harvest what you didn’t work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> Many more believed because of his word, <sup>42</sup> and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

**Hymn**

“Fill My Cup, Lord” (see attached)

**W & S 3093**

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Richard Blanchard

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**Message**

**SEEKING: Will you give me a drink?**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Response to the Word – Affirmation of Faith**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

We believe that a glass of water given to us by a stranger can taste like justice.

**We believe that honest conversation has the power to change us.**

We believe that all God’s children have a voice and something to say.

**We believe that Jesus loves the outcast, the ignored, the shamed, and the abandoned.**

We believe in asking questions.

**We believe in curiosity.**

We believe in giving people a drink.

**May we be brave enough to give people a drink. Amen.**

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

**Nancy Janson**

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

**Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**UMH 95**

**Offering Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

**UMH 301**

1. Jesus keep me near the cross  
There a precious fountain  
Free to all a healing stream  
Flows from Calvary's mountain

**Refrain**

In the cross in the cross  
Be my glory ever  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river

2. Near the cross a trembling soul  
Love and mercy found me  
There the Bright and Morning Star  
Sheds its beams around me

3. Near the cross O Lamb of God  
Bring its scenes before me  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadow o'er me

**Chorus**

**Chorus**

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait  
Hoping trusting ever  
Till I reach the golden strand  
Just beyond the river

**Chorus**

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**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” setting by Guenter Raphael

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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**Questions for Reflection**

*As you read John 4:5–42, think about the meaning of water—its symbolic qualities, its presence in nature, and its use in human life.*

*How is Jesus like water? What are the things that are most necessary in your life? Where do you get them? Contribute to or participate in a service project that provides clean water (or some other necessity of life) to people in need. As you do so, make a commitment to pray for all the providers and recipients of this service.*

**Household Prayer: Morning**

*God, my maker, hold me this day,  
with the same hand that shapes the mountains, with the same hand that cradles the deep.  
Keep my heart soft and supple, make my faith strong and firm.  
Renew me, re-form me, re-create me into the image of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.*

**Household Prayer: Evening**

*We come to you now, O Lord, weary from the day's journey, thirsty for rest, hungry for peace.  
Renew us in your love and restore us by your grace, until we find our rest at last by the river of the water of  
life. 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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