

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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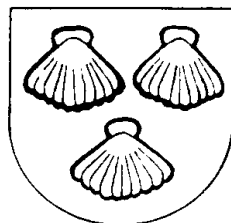
April 9, 2023

9:30 am

“Who are you looking for?”

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 "Alleluia", "He is Risen" Peter Pindar Stearns *Offered by Clarice Snyder*

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Welcome *Rev. Patricia Abell*

Introit "Easter Song" (W & S 3090) *Chancel Choir*

Words: Anne Herring | Music: Anne Herring
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Call to Worship

What are you looking for?

The light before dawn.

What are you looking for?

A reason to hope.

What are you looking for?

Joy after grief and flowers after winter.

What are you looking for?

A place to belong.

What are you looking for?

We are looking for the Messiah.

Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

Surely God is in this place.

Call to Confession *Nancy Janson*

Prayer of Confession *Nancy Janson*

God of resurrection,

We confess, like a dog with a bone, we run aimlessly.

We chase our tails, looking for things that provide answers

to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights.

You meet us in the darkness before dawn, but we mistake you for the gardener.

Forgive us for seeking after worldly things.

Forgive us for forgetting to seek you.

Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst.

With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness *Nancy Janson*

Family of faith,

No matter how many times we lose sight of God, God never loses sight of us.

We might spend our whole days seeking, but we are always found.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel, the good news proclaimed in resurrection:

What once was lost is found. We are held in God's loving embrace: forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Alleluia! Amen.

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

Opening Hymn

“Who Are You Looking For?” TERRA BEATA (“*This Is My Father’s World*”)

1. Who are you looking for?
A body in the tomb?
The grave is death but God has breath
The Spirit’s wings need room
Who are you looking for?
He is not here but raised
The empty tomb is now a womb
Christ lives! Let God be praised!

2. Who are you looking for?
The man of Galilee?
He is not here but always near
Lift up your head and see
Who are you looking for?
Your rabbi and your friend
Is God in flesh who conquered death
Whose reign is without end

3. Who are you looking for?
An answer to pin down?
We cannot know where God will go
But seeking we are found
Who are you looking for?
God will not be boxed in
What we have found is love unbound
Dynamic as the wind

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Time for Children

Debra Bostron

Scripture

John 20:1-18 (CEB)

Nancy Janson

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.” ³ Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. ⁴ They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. ⁵ Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in. ⁶ Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷ He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. It wasn’t with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. ⁸ Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ They didn’t yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means *Teacher*).

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

Anthem “Run, Mary, Run” (arr. by Joseph Martin) **Chancel Choir**

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Message SEEKING: Who are you looking for? **Rev. Patricia Abell**

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

We believe in resurrection—

**mysterious, beyond our understanding, and yet,
like tulips after the snow: real.**

We believe in Easter morning—

in the promise of a God who would roll back every stone to return to us.

We believe in Jesus—

**who calls us by name and asks,
“Who are you looking for?”**

So we look—

for justice, for mercy, for God in our midst.

And as we look,

we sing, “Alleluia!” Amen.

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

Offertory “I Thank God” **Praise Team**

by Aaron Moses, Chuck Butler, Dante Bowe, Jesse Cline, Enrique Holmes, and Maryanne J. George.
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***Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” **UMH 94**

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Offering Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

UMH 302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today Alleluia
Earth and heaven in chorus say Alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high Alleluia
Sing ye heavens and earth reply Alleluia

2. Love’s redeeming work is done Alleluia
Fought the fight the battle won Alleluia
Death in vain forbids him rise Alleluia
Christ has opened paradise Alleluia

3. Lives again our glorious King Alleluia
Where O death is now thy sting alleluia
Once he died our souls to save Alleluia
Where thy victory boasting grave alleluia

4. Soar we now where Christ has led Alleluia
Following our exalted Head Alleluia
Made like him like him we rise Alleluia
Ours the cross the grave the skies Alleluia

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven Alleluia
Praise to thee by both be given Alleluia
Thee we greet triumphant now Alleluia
Hail the Resurrection thou Alleluia

6. King of glory soul of bliss Alleluia
Everlasting life is this Alleluia
Thee to know thy power to prove Alleluia
Thus to sing and thus to love Alleluia

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Benediction

Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus” G. F. Handel

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

When Mary Magdalene first saw the resurrected Jesus, she did not recognize him, even though she knew the tomb was empty.

Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ, even when you were not expecting him?

Are there times you have been in the presence of the risen Christ but have not recognized him?

How would you know?

Household Prayer: Morning

Jesus, victorious Lord, I exult in your resurrection. As I sing “alleluia” with my voice, let my life embody “alleluia” as a testimony to your love and a witness to your eternal life. Amen..

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, the days of sadness are over, for you have risen from the dead. As you conquered the grave, free your servant from fear of harm or death, that I may rest in peace this night and in the morning rise to sing “alleluia.” 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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