

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

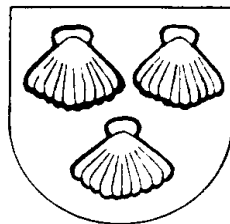
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July 16, 2023
10:00 am
“The Soil and the Seed”

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

410-442-2020

WE GATHER

Prelude

No. 1 "Tranquillamente e dolente" George Oldroyd

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Gathering Song

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

UMH 334

Verse 1

There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord
There are sweet expressions on each face
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord

Chorus

Sweet Holy Spirit
Sweet heavenly Dove
Stay right here with us
Filling us with your love
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise
Without a doubt we'll know
That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place

CCLI Song # 18204

Doris Akers

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Call to Worship

Eddie Candee

Come, let us worship God!

Come, let us worship our Creator!

God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.

God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil.

God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

May we nurture and grow God's new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Eddie Candee

Lord, as we walked through the doors to this place of worship, we brought with us our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows. Touch our hearts and heal us, Lord. Make us ready to become your faithful disciples. AMEN.

Prayer of Confession

Edie Candee

Let us pray together:

**ALL: Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love,
we admit to you that we are like stony fields,
capable of growing goodness and sharing it around,
but also we allow goodness to wither and weeds to flourish.**

**Your mercy has taken root in us, but we do not share enough of it with others,
your justice has grown on us, but we have inadequately implemented it,
your truth has showered on us, but we have let it run to waste,
your love has blossomed among us, but we have been slow to set fruit.**

ONE: Most loving God, open the furrows of our lives to receive again the seeds of your Gospel. Rain your mercy upon us, shine your warmth and light into every dark place, and bring forth in us not the harvest we deserve but the harvest that in your glorious love you have destined for us. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen!**

Assurance of Pardon

Response: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Opening Hymn

“We Walk by Faith”

TFWS 2196

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

2. We may not touch his hand and side
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
And cry, “My Lord and God”.

3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

4. That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.

Words: Henry Alford, alt. (Mark 9:24; John 20: 27-29)
Music: Att. To Hugh Wilson
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Scripture

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (CEB)

Edie Candee

13 That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

³ He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴ As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t deep. ⁶ But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸ Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹ Everyone who has ears should pay attention.”

¹⁸ “Consider then the parable of the farmer. ¹⁹ Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don’t understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. ²¹ Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. ²² As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. ²³ As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

Hymn “The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He” **W & S 3155**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Lord of Life a vine is He
And grafted to Him we must be
And thus we yield abundantly
Sweet fruit for all to taste and see | 2. If we be joined to him we know
His strength and power will help us grow
His Spirit’s grace through is will flow
To prune and share us as we go |
| 3. The vine is He the branches we
For now and to eternity
His word sown deep in us will be
Both sun and rain sufficiency | 4. The Lord of Life the Source Divine
Calls us to come with him entwine
Will we unhearing dare decline
The call of Christ the One True Vine |

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Message “The Soil and the Seed” **Rev. Patricia Abell**

Prayer **Edie Candee**

This prayer weaves spoken petitions, unison responses, and congregational singing of **UMH102**
“Now Thank We All Our God.”

Prayer Response: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have done among us.

Lord’s Prayer

***Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” **UMH 95**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost Amen

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Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken
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Offering Prayer

*Closing Hymn

“Hymn of Promise”

UMH 707

1. In the bulb there is a flower
In the seed an apple tree
In cocoons a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

2. There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me
From the past will come the future
What it holds a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

3. In our end is our beginning
In our time infinity
In our doubt there is believing
In our life eternity
In our death a resurrection
At the last a victory
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

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Benediction

Postlude "Let the Whole Creation Cry" *From Come to us Creative Spirit: Piano Reflections*

by Anne Krentz Organ

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

How is God's resurrecting Spirit at work in you and in your community?
Where are you experiencing new life? Where are you struggling?
How might God be bringing new life from that struggle?

Household Prayer: MORNING

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Living Word, shine on this day. Quicken my steps and open my ears that I might approach each neighbor with an expectant heart. Amen.

Household Prayer: EVENING

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Beacon of truth, I entrust to you now the day that has been: the tasks accomplished and tasks overlooked; the friends acknowledged and the friends ignored; the silence kept and the silence squandered. In your mercy, mend these tattered offerings. Grant me the gift of

rest this night and good companions on the morrow, as you speak me further down the path toward home.
Amen.

RESOURCES:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

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