

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

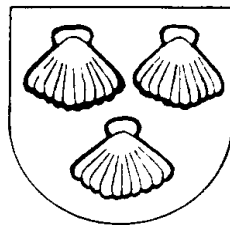
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July 23, 2023
10:00 am
“Shine Like the Sun”

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 "Lacquiparle *Many and Great*" (based on UMH 148) David Schelat

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

Despite hardship, our ancestors dared to dream God-sized dreams.

Many: Praise God for hope-filled dreams.

One: Do it again, Lord. Dream big dreams through us today!

Many: Praise God for new dreams for our generation.

One: Invisible God, be visible through our faith today.

Many: Praise God who empowers us with faith to see what others miss.

One: Will we stop building a better future because of evil?

Many: No! Our God will deliver us from evil!

One: Will we concede our neighborhoods because evil walks the streets?

Many: No! God will judge all evildoers!

All: Come now, Lord, and fulfill your dreams in us today!

Opening Prayer

Antuan Hairston

Creator God, Holy Gardener who sustains and nurtures all life, open us today to your life-giving grace and transformative love. As we notice our internal struggles, empower us to greet the wheat and the weeds in our own hearts with care and compassion. As we recognize the challenges and suffering in our community, inspire us to meet the weeds and the wheat in our neighbors with acceptance and hope. We know that you alone have the final say, and so we give ourselves over to you as instruments of hospitality and grace that we would tend our neighbors even as we are tended by you. AMEN.

Prayer of Confession

Antuan Hairston

Merciful God,

You plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,
forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,
forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,
forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,
forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,
forgive us.

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,
the lonely and the outcast,
and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others, and in the world.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Opening Hymn

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

UMH 127

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my
Journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield
be thou still my strength and shield

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Words: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author, 1771
Music: John Hughes, 1907
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²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The servants of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Master, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?’

²⁸ “‘An enemy has done this,’ he answered.

“The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them?’

²⁹ “But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them.

³⁰ Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I’ll say to the harvesters, “First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.””

³⁶ Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ Jesus replied, “The one who plants the good seed is the Human One.^[a] ³⁸ The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels.

⁴⁰ Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. ⁴¹ The Human One^[a] will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. ⁴² He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Those who have ears should hear.”

Hymn

“Let it Breathe on Me”

UMH 503

Let it breathe on me;
 Let it breathe on me;
 Let the breath of the Lord now breathe on me
 Let it breathe on me;
 Let it breathe on me;
 Let the breath of the Lord now breathe on me

Words: Magnolia Lewis-Butts, 1942 (Jn. 20:22)

Music: Magnolia Lewis-Butts, 1942

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Message

“Shine Like the Sun”

Rev. Patricia Abell**Prayer****Antuan Hairston****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

CCLI Song # 56204
Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken
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Offering Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

TFWS 2214

Lead me, guide me, along the way
For if you lead me, I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Words: Doris Akers
Music: Doris Akers
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Benediction

Postlude

"I'm Bound for the Promised Land" Lee Dengler

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

How has your understanding of the relationship between suffering and faith (or vulnerability and trust) changed over time?

What experiences of God’s grace do you need to acknowledge and anoint?

Household Prayer: MORNING

In whatever shelter I wake this morning I know this place is holy because you meet me here. As I wash my body and prepare for the day, I remember baptismal waters and the claim upon my life. Wherever darkness looms, Sovereign God, traffic in mercy this day. Traffic in mercy this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: EVENING

As darkness spreads over the land, I trust that you move in it. As I yield the night to sleep and dreams, I pray you would remake me into a servant bold, for the sake of Jesus. 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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