

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

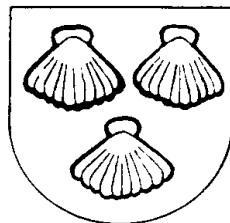
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July 30, 2023
10:00 am
“It Was Alright”

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 "Werde Munter" (Jesu, Joy) Percy Whitlock *Offered by Clarice Snyder*

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Welcome *Debra Bostron, CLS*

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 *Barbara Cook*

We come to worship the Triune God who creates, redeems, and sustains us all.

We come to worship God who never leaves us and yet whose purposes often seem hidden.

As the bulb hides the flower, as the seed hides the tree, as the cocoon hides the butterfly, so too does God bring forth life even when we cannot see it.

We gather today to learn how to watch, wait, and anticipate the season when God's unrevealed work will come into the open.

As silence gives way to song, as night gives way to dawn, as the past flows through the present into the future, so too does God tirelessly persist in bringing about the abundant life of the kingdom of heaven.

We gather today to learn how to join in God's dance as partners who prepare for the season when God's unrevealed work comes into the open.

As our end meets our beginning, as our time meets infinity, as our doubt meets our believing, so too does God meet our brokenness with persevering love, unfolding a new reality of flourishing for all creation.

We gather today to learn how to love as God loves so that we may be part of bringing God's unrevealed work into the open. Amen.

Opening Prayer *Barbara Cook*

O God, teach us not to despise small things.

Remind us that the kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed.

Turn our attention to the small things that bless others.

**You have planted seeds of great potential in our souls.
Help us develop our potential so that you and others can depend on it.
Turn our attention to what is small but potent.
O God, you have entrusted us with gifts and graces that can bless many people.
Help us not to overlook the smallest ability.
O God, you have placed the destiny of the kingdom of heaven inside of us.
Turn our attention to the small things that this congregation can do to make a tremendous difference
in human lives. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Barbara Cook

Let us pray together:

Holy God, remind us that we are loved when we find ourselves unlovable. Remind us that there is hope when all we see around us makes us despair. Remind us that you sent the Prince of Peace when war and violence overwhelm. Remind us that you are the merciful judge when injustice seems to prevail. Remind us that you give us all we need to do your work in the world. Remind us that you give us grace so that we can be your people. We confess our doubt, and trust in your love. Amen.

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

Opening Hymn

"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

UMH 540

1. I love Thy kingdom Lord
The house of Thine abode
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood

2. I love thy church O God
Her walls before thee stand
Dear as the apple of thine eye
And graven on thy hand

3. For her my tears shall fall
For her my prayers ascend
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end

4. Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways
Her sweet communion solemn vows
Her hymns of love and praise

5. Sure as Thy truth shall last
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heaven

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Aaron Williams | Timothy Dwight
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Scripture

Romans 8: 26 – 39 (NIV)

Barbara Cook

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image

*Please stand as able

of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”^[b]

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[c] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 (CEB)

³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^[a] of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

Anthem

“Plenty Good Room”

Antuan Hairston, vocalist

©The Dover edition, published in 2001 is a reprint of My Songs: Aframerican Religious Folk Songs
Arranged by Roland Hayes originally published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston.

Message

“It Was Alright”

Debra Bostron, CLS

Prayer

Barbara Cook

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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Offering Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

UMH 730

1. 1. O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.

2. Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

3. Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

4. Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
And desolation cease.

5. O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set thy judgments on the earth.

Text: Robert B.Y. Scott, 1899-
Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; arr. by William Crotch, 1775-1847
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Benediction

Postlude

“*St. Denio*” (*Immortal, Invisible*) Percy Whitlock **Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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Questions for Reflection

Are there dilemmas or relationships in which you feel separated from the love of God? Can you imagine that God might be at work there, bringing life in unexpected ways? What would change if you were to claim the promise that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?

Household Prayer: MORNING

God of ferment, God of life,
as I recall the night's unsettled dreams . . . as I foresee the day's demands . . .
come to me in the desires of my heart, in the anger of the excluded, in all I might discount—
until I find you everywhere, until your holy love leavens every impulse, for I pray in the name of Jesus, whose
surprising call continues. Amen.

Household Prayer: EVENING

Joy of my heart, thank you for this day's unexpected turns: for provision when I was stymied and laughter
born of grace. As I rest in your mercy open my heart to your unruly love and the neighbors you have put in my
path. Amen.

RESOURCES:

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