SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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September 24, 2023 9:30 am "COME TO THE TABLE: The Table of Grace"

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

"Meditation on a Theme by Tchaikovsky; Song Without Words" Eric H. Thiman

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome Rev. Patricia Abell

Setting the Table "Come to the Table" W & S 3168

Come to the table of grace
Come to the table of grace
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine
Come to the table of grace!

Words: Barbara Hamm Music: Barbara Hamm ©2008 Barbara Hamm

Taking Our Place, Opening to Others

Jeff Williams

We often invoke the idea of "grace" when we say a blessing over our meals.

We know that grace is an essential need for our survival.

We "say grace," but do we always share grace with others?

We need reminders that we are all human.

We thank God for another opportunity to make room at the table for others.

We give thanks for such a large table!

*Opening Hymn

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

UMH 121

- 1. There's a wideness in God's mercy Like the wideness of the sea There's a kindness in His justice Which is more than liberty
- For the love of God is broader Than the measure of our mind And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind

- There is welcome for the sinner And more graces for the good There is mercy with the Savior There is healing in his blood
- 4. If our love were but more simple We should rest upon God's word And our lives would be illumined By the presence of our Lord

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Charles H. Webb | Frederick William Faber | Lizze Shove Tourjee
Words: Public Domain; Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
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Passing the Peace

WE PROCLAIM

Preparation to Hear God's Word

"Come to the Table"

W & S 3168

Children's Moment

Rev. Patricia Abell and Edie Candee

Scripture

Philippians 1: 21-30 and Matthew 20: 1-16

Jeff Williams

The Word in Music

"Plenty Good Room"

Antuan Hairston, Soloist

©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 "The Table of Grace"

Rev. Patricia Abell

WE RESPOND

Prayer Song

"At This Table" (sung 1st by Antuan, then congregation joins in)

At this table we lift our voices in prayer
At this table we seek your peace
At this table we know you have drawn near
At this table we find release

Prayer of the People, Church & World

Jeff Williams

Response: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer Jeff Williams

Offering

*Doxology "Be Present at Our Table Lord"

UMH 621

Be present at our table, Lord, be here and everywhere adored; thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in fellowship with thee.

Words: John Cennick, 1741 Music: Old 100th, attributed to Louis Bourgeois, 1551 Public Domain

Offering Prayer

*Closing Hymn

"Amazing Grace" (vs. 1 - 4)

UMH 378

- 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
- Through many dangers toils and snares
 I have already come
 Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
 And grace will lead me home
- 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed
- The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures

Words: John Newton 1779 Music: 19th cent. USA melody; harm. By Edwin O. Excell 1900 Public Domain

Benediction

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Food for Thought on Philippians 1: 21-30; Matthew 20: 1-16

Paul encourages the Philippians to "stand united" before "the opposition." What does it mean to stand united as a community when we have so many differences of opinion even amongst ourselves? What are the most essential values we can agree on?

If the apostle Paul dropped by next week to see how things were going, do you think he'd be pleased? Is there anything we'd be scrambling to fix or ashamed to share?

This Table of Grace requires much of us.

It insists that we withhold judgment from those who seem to be
"taking the easy way out" or don't have to work as hard as we feel we do.

Grace is a great equalizer—

none of us are above receiving it, or exempt from needing to give it.

Perhaps the hardest grace of all is the grace we must have for ourselves.

Household Prayer: MORNING

Dear God, thank you for this day. Help me hear others as I know that you always hear me. Open my heart and help me give myself with grateful praise to things you have set for me today. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

Household Prayer: EVENING

Dear God, thank you for always being with me. Rest now in me, God, so that I will wake in the morning with praise and thanksgiving on my lips. In Jesus' name I pray. 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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