

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

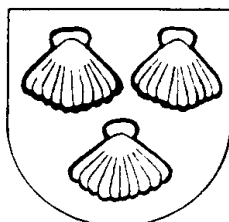
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December 17, 2023
9:30 am
“Being Present With Love”

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 Celebrate Our Presence Together: Gathering

Prelude “Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel” (Advent Reflections for Piano and Solo Instrument)
by Anne Krentz Organ
Susan Day - Flute, Clarice Snyder - Piano
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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Gathering Song

“What Can I Give Him?”

Chancel Choir

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a Wise One, I would do my part;

Yet what can I give Him? I will give my heart.

Words by Christina Rossetti (1830–1894) Adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman

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Becoming Present - The Advent Ritual

Nancy Janson

Liturgist: We unwrap a present on this last Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

People: We open our hearts as we open the gift!

Liturgist: The promise of Love is the Divine Gift we receive.

People: And what will we do with it?

Liturgist: The gift of love is the essence of the birth of Christ.

The Holy One wanted to be so present to us that God’s Spirit became flesh in order to inhabit the gifts of touching, healing, comforting, and challenging. Love is the clarion call to us as Jesus’ disciples.

The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be.

People: We light this Candle of Love as a sign that we will be Present with Love in the world.

“What Can I Give Him?” (see lyrics above)

Prayer of Presence

Nancy Janson

**Holy Living Light of God,
you are our Loving Presence.
Let this love grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Love to others.
Unwrap and open our hearts.
May it be so.
Amen.**

Passing the Peace

***Opening Hymn**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

UMH 196

1. Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art

2. Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone

*Please stand as able

Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

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Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard
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The Word Present Among Us: Proclaiming

Children's Moment

Jelinda Blum

Cantata

A Song Unending

Saint James Chancel Choir

©1959 by John W. Peterson, Better Choirs Publications, Inc.

A Song Unending

Chancel Choir

Hymn

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" UMH 218 (vs 1 & 4)

Congregation

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-30

Barbara Cook

Angel Gabriel and Mary

Jeremiah Ross, Ugonna Ezekwesili and Reena DeBerry

Scripture

Luke 1: 39-42; 45

Barbara Cook

Mary

Reena DeBerry

Scripture

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Chancel Choir

Luke 1: 56

Rev. Patricia Abell

Telling the Story/Bethlehem

Chancel Choir

Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH 230 (vs. 1 & 4)

Congregation

Scripture

Luke 2: 4-5

Rev. Patricia Abell

In the Manger

Mary Anne Espenshade

Hush/Christmas Day

Ryan Cho, soloist, Chancel Choir

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles Creed UMH 882

Congregation

Telling the Story/Wise Men Journey Narration

Chancel Choir

Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240 (vs. 1 & 2)

Congregation

Scripture

Luke 2: 8-16, 20

Austin Morse

Break Forth into Singing

Chancel Choir

A Song Unending

Chancel Choir

Fully Present in the Moment: Praying

Prayer of the People, Church & World

Rev. Patricia Abell

"Right Here, Right Now"

Right here and right now we open our senses
to see and perceive the gifts we've been given,
to know and believe that what we must do
is open our hearts to let all gifts flow through.

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Offering

*Please stand as able

***Doxology**

“Doxology for Advent” (Tune: Veni Emmanuel)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674 Music: 15th Century French
Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship,
P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.uncworship.org>
Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain

Offering Prayer

Present to the World: Sending Forth

***Closing Hymn**

“Go In Love”
Nancy Price and Don Besig
Copyright ©1993,1933 Harold Flammer Music

Barbara Cook, soloist

Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (Advent Reflections for Piano and Solo Instrument)
by Anne Krentz Organ **Susan Day - Flute, Clarice Snyder - Piano**
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Questions for Reflection

Who was a gift of presence to you this week? How did you offer yourself as a gift of presence?
What could you do this coming week that would allow God’s gift of Hope to flow through you to someone else?

Household Prayer: Morning
Holy Living Light of God,
you are our Loving Presence.
Let this love grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Love to others.
Unwrap and open our hearts.
May it be so.
Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and challenges of this day.
Where I failed to do your will, forgive me. Grant me peace throughout this night, and if I should die,
welcome me into your glory with all the saints in light; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

RESOURCES:

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Saint James UMC is a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.