

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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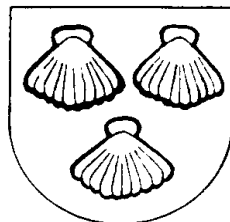
December 31, 2023

9:30 am

“Being Present With Assurance”

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

"In the Bleak Midwinter - By Gustav Holtz. Arr. - Mark Hayes

Offered by Jane Ohlmacher

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Gathering Song

"What Can I Give Him?"

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

Barbara Cook

Liturgist: We come giving thanks that the gifts we've been given are the gifts we can give.

People: We open our hearts, readying them for the gift of a new year!

Liturgist: The promises of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light are the Divine Gifts we receive.

People: We will use them to reassure those who need to know that they are the recipients of these gifts as well.

Liturgist: The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. The gift of Christ's peace reminds us that we can have peace even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep call to delight in the small things. The gift of love is the clarion call to us as Jesus' disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be. The gift of Christ's light is the reassurance that we are never alone.

People: We light these candles as a sign that we will be Present with Assurance in the world.

"What Can I Give Him?" (see lyrics above)

Prayer of Presence

Barbara Cook

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

Passing the Peace

*Opening Hymn

"The First Noel"

UMH 245

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

3. And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went
Noel, Noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay
Noel, Noel, noel, noel,
Born is the King of Israel

5. Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
Noel, Noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

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The Word Present Among Us: Proclaiming

Children's Moment

Rev. Patricia Abell

First Readings

Isaiah 62: 1-3 and Galatians 4: 4-7

Barbara Cook

For Zion's sake, I will not be silent;
for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest —
not until her integrity shines like the dawn,
her deliverance like a flaming torch.
The nations will see your vindication, and the rulers your splendor;
you will have a new name that God's mouth will bestow.
You will be a garland of beauty in YHWH's hands,
a solemn crown worn by your God.

Hymn

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

UMH 242

1. Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely Love divine
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign

2. Worship we the Godhead
Love incarnate Love divine
Worship we our Jesus
But wherewith for a sacred sign

3. Love shall be our token
Love be yours and love be mine
Love to God and all men
Love for plea and gift and sign

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Hymn

1. Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
 O what a foretaste of glory divine
 Heir of salvation purchase of God
 Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

“Blessed Assurance”

Chorus

This is my story, this is my song
 Praising my Savior all the day long
 This is my story, this is my song
 Praising my Savior all the day long

UMH 369

2. Perfect submission perfect delight
 Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
 Angels descending bring from above
 Echoes of mercy whispers of love

3. Perfect submission all is at rest
 I in my Savior am happy and blest
 Watching and waiting looking above
 Filled with his goodness lost in his love

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Fanny Jane Crosby | Phoebe Palmer Knapp

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Message

“What a Gift, Assurance!”

Rev. Patricia Abell

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

*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, Tell It on the Mountain”

UMH 251

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
 Over the hills and ev'rywhere
 Go tell it on the mountain
 That Jesus Christ is born

1. While shepherds kept their watching
 O'er silent flocks by night
 Behold throughout the heavens
 There shone a holy light

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

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Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

“There's a Song in the Air” by Carl P. Harrington, Arr. - Cindy Berry

Offered by Jane Ohlmacher

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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 reassuring presence to flow through you to someone else?

Household Prayer: Morning

**Holy Living Light of God,
you are our Reassuring Presence.
Let this assurance grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Assurance 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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