

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

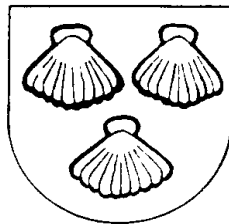
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December 22, 2024
9:30 am
Promise

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 stjamessec@verizon.net

Prelude “Wake, Awake & Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” settings by Paul Manz

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Antuan Hairston

Introit

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

Handbell Choir

Arranged by Ellen Jane Lorenz
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Call to Worship

Antuan Hairston

Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

We wait as people of God’s promise.

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary’s womb call to us today.

We listen as people of God’s promise.

Mary’s “yes” and Elizabeth’s faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God’s good news into the world.

We follow as people of God’s promise.

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Gathering Song

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (vs. 4)

UMH 196

4. 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
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

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Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard
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Opening Prayer

Antuan Hairston

**God of the impossible and unlikely,
God of pregnant old women and virgins,
you turn our conventional world upside down,
where the hungry are fed,
and arrogant rich are turned away.**

**Instill in us unthinkable marvels.
Make us pregnant with wonder
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen**

Adapted from Bob Eldan. Posted on the Pilgrim Uniting Church website at
<https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=677>.

***Opening Hymn**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

UMH 213

1. Lift up your heads you mighty gates
Behold the King of glory waits
The King of kings is drawing near
The Savior of the world is here

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ
Adorned with prayer and love and joy

3. Redeemer come with us abide
Our hearts to Thee we open wide
Let us thy inner presence feel
Thy grace and love in us reveal

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Passing the Peace

Antuan Hairston

Children’s Time

Edie Candee

Scripture

**Micah 5:2-5a (NRSVue)
Luke 1: 26-45 (NRSVue)**

Antuan Hairston

Anthem

“And the Glory of the Lord” from Messiah

Handbell Choir

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Message

“Promise”

Rev. Patricia Abell

Prayer for God’s People, Church, & World

Antuan Hairston

Response: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Lord’s Prayer

Antuan Hairston

Offertory

“Advent Anticipation”

Handbell Choir

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***Doxology**

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God All creatures here below
Alleluia alleluia
Praise God the source of all our gifts
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts
Praise the Spirit Holy Spirit
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

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Offering Prayer

*Closing Hymn

“He Came Down”

TFWS 2085

1. He came down that we may have love
He came down that we may have love
He came down that we may have love
Hallelujah for evermore

2. He came down that we may have peace
He came down that we may have peace
He came down that we may have peace
Hallelujah for evermore

3. He came down that we may have joy
He came down that we may have joy
He came down that we may have joy
Hallelujah for evermore

Bridge

Why did he come?

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John L. Bell
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Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude “Savior of the Nations, Come” (Toccata on Veni, Redemptor gentium) setting by Paul Manz

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

Where do you see the light of Christ magnified in your person, your life,
and the ways of your family and community?

Notice in the coming week one time each day when the light of Christ is made present for you by
others.

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, good and gracious God,
for the morning light, for another day in which to live out what it means that you have magnified my soul and
the souls of those around me in this world.

Teach me the meaning of "Let it be."
Show me how to trust; in Jesus' name.. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks that
you have made incarnate in your world
the breath of life, the life of hope.

Keep us safe throughout the night that in the morning we may again rejoice
and live in peace with all creation; in Jesus' name.. Amen.

Resources:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox
Press.

Come, Let Us Adore Him. Advent, Year C Worship Series. UMC Discipleship Ministries, 2024.

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