

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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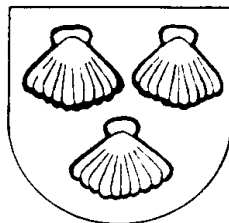
March 9, 2025

9:30 am

Rescue Me

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

Gathering

Prelude "O Jesus, Thou Art Standing" Sharon Elery Rogers *Offered by Clarice Snyder*

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Lighting the Prayer Candle

Call to Prayer and Praise

"What Wondrous Love Is This?" (vs.1-3)

UMH 292

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing.

Music: USA folk hymn; harm. by Paul J. Christiansen, 1955 (MH harm by Carlton R. Young)
Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983 Augsburg Publishing House

Call to Worship

Mary Anne Espenshade

ONE: On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

ALL: God, rescue us in the wilderness!

Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

God, rescue us within the wilderness!

Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

God, rescue us through the wilderness!

Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

Opening Prayer

Mary Anne Espenshade

ALL: God, you are our refuge.
ONE: You are the shore in sight,
you are hands that reach out,
you are the ground on which to rest.
ALL: God, you are our strength.
ONE: You are the life we long for,
you are the refusal to give up,
you are the keys of home we carry with us.
ALL: God, you are our help in Time of trouble.
ONE: We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,
We call on you from the wildness and the deep,
ALL: We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.

Found in Cláudio Carvalhaes, *Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 40.

Prayer of Confession

Mary Anne Espenshade

Jesus, We confess that when we read about your temptations, we excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not you. Of course, you passed the test, we say. You're God, right? But we mere mortals have no expectation that we can withstand evil like you did. But we are reminded that you are not only Savior; you are example. You faced the temptation to prove yourself, to be spectacular, and to have consuming power. And you walked away, resisting. Forgive us when we have not resisted; when we have yielded to temptation. Forgive us for loving power and prestige more than God. Help us to choose a life rooted in God's word and grace. Amen.

Written by Valerie Bridgeman Davis, *The Africana Worship Book, Year C* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008), 146.

Words of Assurance

Mary Anne Espenshade

*Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

UMH 400

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

CCLI Song # 108389 John Wyeth | Robert Robinson
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*Please stand as able

Passing of the Peace

Mary Anne Espenshade

Proclaiming

Children's Moment

Tainya Clarke

Scripture

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9 - 16 (NRSVue)

Mary Anne Espenshade

Luke 4: 1-13 (NRSVue)

Word in Music

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

TFWS 2112

1. Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
he had to walk it by himself.

2. We must walk this lonesome valley;
We have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;
We have to walk it by ourselves.

3. You must go and stand your trial;
you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you;
you have to stand it by yourself.

American Folk Hymn
Public Domain

Message

"Rescue Me"

Rev. Patricia Abell

Response

Prayers of Intercession

Mary Anne Espenshade

Response: Hear our prayer, O God, our refuge and fortress, our shelter and shade.

**Final Response: O God, our refuge and fortress, our shelter and shade,
we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is generous to all who call upon him. Amen. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Mary Anne Espenshade

***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

Offering Prayer

Going Forth

*Closing Hymn

“Abide With Me”

UMH 700

1. Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless O abide with me

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not abide with me

3. I need Thy presence every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power
Who like Thyself my Guide and Stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine O abide with me

4. I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting where grave thy victory
I triumph still if Thou abide with me

5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
In life in death O Lord abide with me

CCLI Song # 43190
Henry Francis Lyte | William Henry Monk
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Benediction

Postlude

“Abide With Me” arr. by Diane Bish

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Question for Reflection

In Luke 4:1–13, the devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread, to take control of the kingdoms of the world, and to perform a spectacular stunt that would “wow the crowd.” Jesus refused to take control in these ways. Instead, Jesus chose another way to feed hungry people, to demonstrate what the kingdom of God looks like, and to enter Jerusalem humbly. Why do think Jesus chose another way to “do justice” and what are some ways that you and your faith community practice justice in his name?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, all night I slept in your shadow, sheltered by you.

As I enter into the gift of this day, I trust that you are with me.

May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the world today, for you alone are God.

I ask that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate and share with others the abundance of your grace and love.

Help me to be open to all people you bring my way, for you yourself make no distinctions, but are Lord of all.

In Christ’s name, I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you.

Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day.

Thank you, too, for every person who offered me grace, and for those to whom I could also show grace.

I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your power in the darkness that surrounds them.

Be near to them and show them your salvation.

And in the morning when I rise, give me your work to do for another day; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Resources: *Steadfast Love; Discipleship Ministries, 2025. umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/steadfast-love

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

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