

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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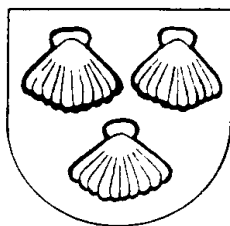
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September 14, 2025
9:30 am
Creating from Chaos
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj		Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark
Director of Music Ministry: Kelli Young		Organist: Clarice Snyder
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell		



Saint James United Methodist Church

Marriottsville, MD 410-442-2020

stjamessec@verizon.net

Gathering

Prelude

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" (Holy Manna) Dale Wood

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Gathering Song

"God Is Here Today"

TFWS 2049

God is here today
As certain as the air I breathe
As certain as the morning sun that rises
As certain when I sing
You'll hear my song

CCLI Song # 3170575

Arturo Gonzalez | C. Michael Hawn

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Call to Worship

Mary Anne Espenshade

ONE: Come, Let us bow before our Creator,

ALL: whose Spirit moves over desert and sea,

ONE: whose Word has the power to create, to judge, and to save.

ALL: Come, let us worship God.

Creation Prayer of the Day

Mary Anne Espenshade

Gracious God, when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day, you are Lord; and when chaos threatens to overwhelm and we dread the next news cycle—still, you are Lord. Always you are creating, redeeming, sustaining. Speak then your mercy into this place until we discover the courage to open our eyes, unclench our hands, and move toward our neighbor in need, until all the world rises and moves with the rhythm of your grace; for we long to honor the name of Jesus, by whose breath we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect of this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came. Do not abandon us to our foolishness. In judgment, illumine our darkness. In mercy, bear us home—until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

Mary Anne Espenshade

One: In Christ we are becoming a new creation.

ALL: We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.

One: Let us show the love God has instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you.

ALL: People And also with you.

One: You are invited to share peace with your neighbor, and with those worshipping beyond the walls.

***Opening Hymn**

"My Hope Is Built"

UMH 368

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name
2. When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

Refrain

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand
3. His oath his covenant his blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay

Refrain

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound
O may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

CCLI Song # 25417

Edward Mote | William Batchelder Bradbury

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Proclaiming

Children's Message

Donna Benson

Scripture

**Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 (NRSVue)
Luke 15: 1-10 (NRSVue)**

Mary Anne Espenshade

Word in Music

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

UMH 381

1. Savior like a shepherd lead us
Much we need thy tender care
In thy pleasant pastures feed us
For our use thy folds prepare
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us thine we are
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us thine we are
3. Thou hast promised to receive us
Poor and sinful though we be
Thou hast mercy to relieve us
Grace to cleanse and power to free
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus

2. We are thine thou dost befriend us
Be the guardian of our way
Keep thy flock from sin defend us
Seek us when we go astray
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Hear O hear us when we pray
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Hear O hear us when we pray
4. Early let us seek thy favor
Early let us do thy will
Blessed Lord and only Savior
With thy love our bosoms fill
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus

We will early turn to thee
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
We will early turn to thee

Thou hast loved us love us still
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Thou hast loved us love us still

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Message

“Creating from Chaos”
Responding

Rev. Patricia Abell

Prayer for People, Church & World
Lord’s Prayer

Mary Anne Espenshade

*Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
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. Amen.

UMH 95

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Offering Prayer

Going Forth

*Closing Hymn

“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

UMH 66

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to the throne thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor
To all people in distress;
Praise God, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious now God’s faithfulness.

3. Father-like, God tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame God knows;
mother-like, God gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet God's mercy flows.

4. Angels in the heights, adoring,
You behold God face to face;
Saints triumphant, now adoring,
Gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

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Henry Francis Lyte | John Goss
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Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

“In Christ There is No East or West” Dale Wood

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Questions for Reflection

How are you a lost sheep, in need of someone to come and search for you?
How are you a religious leader, grumbling at the community's disintegrating standards? How are you called to engage in the search for others who live in isolation from God and community??

Household Prayer: Morning

Persistent God, as the day begins and the light increases, let me drink deeply of your grace.
As the day unfolds, when my heart strays from you, call me back to this moment.
Come after me as surely as a woman searches for treasure lost.
If I am deaf and satisfied, if I resent the needs of others, blow strong against me.
Do not leave me in my foolishness—for I would have your mercy flow from me:
I would be a refuge for those who wander; I would lend my heart to celebrations.
I would speak your name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Patient, persistent God, I offer the day-that-has-been to you,
knowing that I was not alone, even when I wandered and filled my heart with noise.
[silent prayer]
As darkness falls, as I yield to sleep, seek me again in my dreams.
Call to me in ways beyond my knowing that I might find the strength to feed your people,
that I might live, again, to call your name, that I might know the joy of every stranger heading home. For the
mercy of the Christ will sustain me and the power of the Spirit send me forth. Amen.

RESOURCES:

- + Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2013
Westminster John Knox Press
- + Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes. Perennial Edition 2025
- + Season of Creation. Discipleship Ministries, 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/season-of-creation>
- The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025*, edited by Mary Scifres and by B. J. Beu

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