

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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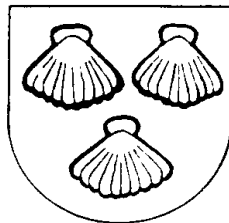
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October 19, 2025
9:30 am
Scriptural Drama
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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	"Pastorale" Louis Vierne	<i>Offered by Clarice Snyder</i>
	Public Domain	
Welcome		<i>Donna Benson, CLS</i>
Introit	"All Things Bright and Beautiful"	<i>Handbell Choir</i>

17th Century English Melody Arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson
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Call to Worship	<i>Susan Mascaro</i>
ONE: We stumble through our days, looking for where we belong	
ALL: Help us to find our place in your world, O God	
We wonder why we are here, if our lives serve a purpose	
Help us to find our purpose in your world, O God	
We strive to please you but often fall far short	
O God, help us turn to you for guidance, forgiveness and purpose.	

Prayer of the Day	<i>Susan Mascaro</i>
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Eternal God, we find your many faces in the pages of scripture. Guide us to find our place, our calling, in your word so that we may live our lives in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

*Opening Hymn	"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"	<i>UMH 384</i>
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1. Love divine all loves excelling Joy of heaven to earth come down Fix in us Thy humble dwelling All Thy faithful mercies crown Jesus Thou art all compassion Pure unbounded love Thou art Visit us with Thy salvation Enter every trembling heart	2. Breathe O breathe thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast Let us all in thee inherit Let us find that second rest Take away our bent to sinning Alpha and Omega be End of faith as its beginning Set our hearts at liberty
3. Come Almighty to deliver Let us all Thy life receive Suddenly return and never Nevermore Thy temples leave Thee we would be always blessing Serve Thee as Thy hosts above Pray and praise Thee without ceasing Glory in Thy perfect love	4. Finish then Thy new creation Pure and spotless let us be Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee Changed from glory into glory Till in heaven we take our place Till we cast our crowns before Thee Lost in wonder love and praise

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Charles Wesley | John Zundel
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Passing of the Peace

Susan Mascaro

ONE: The living Christ is here with us!

ALL: Praise be to God!

May the peace of Christ dwell deeply in our souls.

ALL: We will share this peace with the entire community.

Let us do so now.

Proclaiming

Children's Message

Edie Candee

Scripture

**Genesis 1:1-2, 1:31-2:3 (NRSVue)
Revelations 21:1-5 (NRSVue)**

Susan Mascaro

Word in Music

"Morning Praise"

Handbell Choir

Cathy Moglebust based on the hymn tunes Buensan, Ratison and Laudes Domini
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Message

"Scriptural Drama"

Donna Benson, CLS

Responding

Prayer for People, Church & World

Susan Mascaro

Response: We pray to you for help

Lord's Prayer

Offertory

"This Is My Father's World"

Handbell Choir

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt. arr. Ron Mallory (ASCAP)
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*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. Amen.

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Offering Prayer

Going Forth

*Closing Hymn

"Seek Ye First"

UMH 405

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia

2. Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu alleluia

*Please stand as able

Charge

ONE: Give us the wisdom to see your redemptive work from the beginning, through the people of Israel, to the life and mission of Jesus.

ALL: You have invited us to participate in this drama, even as it continues today. Lord, help us find our place in your drama.

Blessing

Postlude

"Praise the Almighty, my Soul Adore Him" Jan Bender *Offered by Clarice Snyder*

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Questions for Reflection

Luke's parable of the widow (Luke 18:1–8) who continually came to the judge seeking justice encourages us not to lose heart. We are to pray and to be persistent in the life of faith on behalf of the justice God intends. God is pictured in contrast to this unjust judge who doesn't care a bit about justice but does care about his own peace of mind! God, of course, has no peace of mind without justice. If we think of ourselves as the widow in this parable, then few of us have her stamina in the hard, exhausting work of seeking justice on behalf of the powerless. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus asks the closing question of the parable: ". . . when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Will he find faith in us—persistent, tireless faith seeking justice? Margit Ernst-Habib* invites us to think that the widow represents not only our need to pray relentlessly but also to see the Holy Spirit in this insistent widow. The Spirit is at work, earnestly, unrelentingly encouraging us to pray. What causes you to lose hope in your own prayer life? What might the Spirit be urging you to pray and work for on behalf of someone else?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of justice, you are at work this very day
on behalf of those who are poor, marginalized, and disregarded.
Fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit so that I can begin this day
praying earnestly for someone who faces injustice.

Help me to see and to act upon an opportunity to participate in your love and justice.
Give me the eyes and ears of faith as I go about my daily routines, walk the paths and hallways
of my daily life,
and attend to news local and global.

Then, seeing and hearing through the light of Christ, encourage me relentlessly to pray and work
without losing heart. I ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Please stand as able

Household Prayer: Evening

God of mercy, I come to you now with my energy running low as the lights of the evening.

Like stars in the darkness, I send out my prayers for justice to you.

May this small effort of mine send a ray of hope, however faint,
to someone facing the darkness of trial or terror tonight.

I know how strong evil and injustice still are in this world, yet I know you are stronger than even the worst we
can do. So, I do not lose heart;

rather, my heart rests in gratitude to you:

...for the gift of life, for the comforts of faith and those who are family to me,
and for the hope you have given us all in Christ's rising from the dead.

I pray this night for peace among all people,
in the name of him who came to bring peace
unlike any the world can give, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESOURCES:

- + Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2013
Westminster John Knox Press
- + Abingdon Worship Annual 2025...
- + Worship Design Studio, A Place at the Table. 2024.
- + Choosing Faith. Discipleship Ministries, 2025. Retrieved from
umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/choosing-faith/
- + Image: The Best Supper © Jan Richardson, 2008. Used with permission.

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