

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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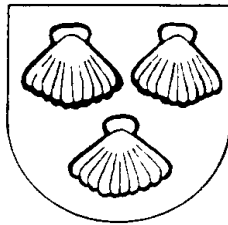
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November 30, 2025
9:30 am
“Signs and Times”
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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, MD410-442-2020

stjamessec@verizon.net

Gathering

Prelude "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying" (UMH 720) J. S. Bach *Offered by Clarice Snyder*
Public Domain

Welcome *Rev. Patricia Abell*

Threshold Song "Toda la Tierra" (All Earth Is Waiting) (vs. 1) *UMH 210*
1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Catalonian Text, Alberto Taule, 1972, trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Harm. © 1988 Skinner Chavez-Melo

Lighting of the Advent Candle

ONE: ...neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

Call to Worship

Jan Petrosch

ONE: Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

ALL: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025

Prayer of Confession

Jan Petrosch

Holy One, You call us to wake from sleep, to become aware to our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ's light. Amen.

Posted on Fight the Bees. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://reworship.blogspot.com/2013/10/prayer-of-confession-wake-from-sleep.html>.

*Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

UMH 196

1. Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

2. 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

Passing of the Peace

Jan Petrosh

Proclaiming

Children's Message

Rev. Patricia Abell

Scripture

**Isaiah 2:1–5 (NRSVue)
Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSVue)**

Jan Petrosh

Anthem

"Dona Nobis Pacem"

Chancel Choir

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Message

"Signs and Times"

Rev. Patricia Abell

Responding

Prayer for People, Church & World

Jan Petrosh

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

***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.

Offering Prayer

Going Forth

***Closing Hymn**

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

UMH 732

1. Come we that love the Lord
And let our joys be known
Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne

2. Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God
But children of the heavenly King
May speak their joys abroad

3. The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heavn'ly fields
Or walk the golden streets

4. Then let our songs abound
And every tear be dry
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high

Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

"Wake, Awake for Night is Flying" (UMH 720)

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

What does it mean to "get your house in order" for the coming of the Lord?

Can we ever be perfectly ready for Christ's return?

Why is the coming of the Lord compared to a thief in the night?

Is there grace in God's surprising advent, God's unexpected arrival?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord God, you have woken me from sleep; the night is gone, the day is here.
Enable me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and help me to live honorably this day,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, my Savior, you are even nearer now than when I first learned to trust in you.
Help me to lay aside the burdens of the day and rest in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
my strength and my salvation. Amen.

RESOURCES:

+ Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 © 2013

Westminster John Knox Press

+Abingdon Worship Annual 2025...ministrymatters.com

+All Earth Is Waiting. Discipleship Ministries, 2025. (NOV 30-DEC 28)

Retrieved from umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/

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Saint James UMC is a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.