

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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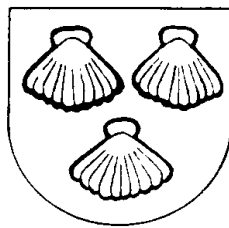
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December 28, 2025
9:30 am
“Signs and Powers”
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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 "The First Noel", "Of the Father's Love", "O Little Town" Wilbur Held
Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome *Rev. Patricia Abell*

Threshold Song "Alleluia" *UMH 186*

1. Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
2. He's my Savior
3. I will praise Him

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Call to Worship *Nancy Janson*

ONE: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

ALL: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

**We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

***Opening Hymn** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *UMH 240*

1. Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
2. Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th' incarnate Deity
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness
 Light and life to all he brings
 Risen with healing in his wings
 Mild he lays his glory by
 Born that we no more may die
 Born to raise us from the earth
 Born to give us second birth
 Hark the herald angels sing
 Glory to the newborn King

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Prayer of Confession

Nancy Janson

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than advocating for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world. Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

.Passing of the Peace

Nancy Janson

Proclaiming

Children's Message

Jelinda Blum

Scripture

Isaiah 63:7-9 (NRSVue)
 Matthew 2: 13-23 (NRSVue)

Nancy Janson

Anthem

"The Virgin's Slumber Song"

Kelli Young, Soloist

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Message

"Signs and Powers"

Rev. Patricia Abell

Responding

Prayer for God's People, Church, & World

Nancy Janson

*Please stand as able

Lord's Prayer

*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.
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

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Offering Prayer

Going Forth

*Closing Hymn

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

UMH 251

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

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Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

"In dulci jubilo" Wilbur Held

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

Like many immigrants today, Joseph took his family across the border when they were in danger. Though they eventually returned to their home country, danger was still a present possibility.

In what ways did Jesus, in his life and ministry, threaten those who held power in his day?

How are we, as we practice the Christian life among present powers, challenging violence and injustice today?
What dream or vision do you have for the world Christ came to save?

Household Prayer: Morning

Creator God, as I begin this day,
open my eyes, my ears, all my senses to the beauty around me.
Help me to see how mountains and trees rise up in praise of you.
Help me to hear how the birds of the air, the whales in the deep,
and the wild animals on the ground sing your praises.
Help me to join another, or many others, in praise of your glory
not only today, but even forever. Amen!

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, as the evening comes, and with it the moon and shining stars,
I know that you are the Light in every darkness.
Shine, then, upon anyone who is troubled this night.
Shine, then, upon the troubles I have known.
Help me to put my trust in you, for I am your child, and you have come to help me;
you help all whom you have drawn close.
I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, my brother and Savior. 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)
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