

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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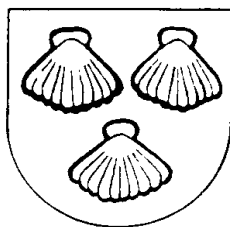
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**January 11, 2026**  
**9:30 am**  
**“Power of Presence”**  
**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

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



**Saint James United Methodist Church**

Marriottsville, MD 410-442-2020

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## Gathering

**Prelude** "To Jordan came our Lord, the Christ" Dietrich Buxtehude *Offered by Clarice Snyder*  
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**Welcome** *Rev. Patricia Abell*

**Threshold Song** "Baptized in Water" *TFWS 2248*

1. Baptized in water sealed by the Spirit  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King  
Heirs of salvation trusting His promise  
Faithfully now God's praise we sing

2. Baptized in water sealed by the Spirit  
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King  
One with His rising freed and forgiven  
Thankfully now God's praises we sing

3. Baptized in water sealed by the Spirit  
Marked with the sign of Christ our King  
Born of one Father we are His children  
Joyfully now God's praise we sing

CCLI Song # 2700434

Michael Saward

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**Call to Worship** *Beth Shipley*

ONE: Welcome to worship this day!

**ALL: We have come seeking God's blessing and love.**

ONE: They shall be given to you.

**ALL: We have come seeking forgiveness and healing.**

ONE: These will be offered to you. Open your hearts to receive God's Good News.

**ALL: We open our hearts to all of God's words and ways for us. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer** *Beth Shipley*

God of strength, God of love, surround us with your love. Gather us in as your beloved children. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. May your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for your work in the world. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn** "Fairest Lord Jesus" *UMH 189*

1. Fairest Lord Jesus Ruler of all nature  
O Thou of God and man the Son  
Thee will I cherish Thee will I honor  
Thou my soul's glory joy and crown

2. Fair are the meadows fairer still the woodlands  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring  
Jesus is fairer Jesus is purer  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing

3. Fair is the sunshine fairer still the moonlight  
And all the twinkling starry host  
Jesus shines brighter Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heaven can boast

4. Beautiful Savior Lord of all nations  
Son of God and Son of Man  
Glory and honor praise adoration  
And forevermore be thine

**Prayer of Yearning**

***Beth Shipley***

**God of Holy Expectation, when we read about those who serve you, like John, like Jesus, we yearn to feel your delight in us as well. Our voices can seem weak, our efforts in vain. Sometimes we feel like dimly burning wicks, just about to go out. Sometimes we are the ones sitting in darkness, even though you call us to help others find their way out of the darkness. Holy One, take us by the hand. Strengthen us in our weakness, that your holy work may be accomplished through us and that we may know your delight in the core of who we are. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

***Beth Shipley***

**Passing of the Peace**

***Beth Shipley***

**Proclaiming**

**Children's Message**

***Donna Benson***

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 42: 1-9 (NRSVue)  
 Matthew 3: 13-17 (NRSVue)**

***Beth Shipley***

**Hymn**

"Spirit Song"

***UMH 347***

1. Oh let the Son of God enfold you  
 With His Spirit and His love  
 Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul  
 Oh let Him have those things that hold you  
 And His Spirit like a dove  
 Will descend upon your life and make you whole

***Chorus***

Jesus oh Jesus  
 Come and fill Your lambs  
 Jesus oh Jesus  
 Come and fill Your lambs

2. Oh come and sing this song with gladness  
 As your hearts are filled with joy  
 Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name  
 Oh give Him all your tears and sadness  
 Give Him all your years of pain  
 And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

**Message**

"Power of Presence"

***Rev. Patricia Abell***

**Response to the Word**

**May we follow Jesus into the waters of new life and know that the Spirit of God comes to us, too. Praise be to God, River of Forgiveness and Life, River of Justice flowing through us in hope and power for the world! Amen.**

## Responding

### Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant Lord's Prayer

#### \*Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God All creatures here below  
Alleluia alleluia  
Praise God the source of all our gifts  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts  
Praise the Spirit Holy Spirit  
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

**UMH 94**

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## Going Forth

#### \*Closing Hymn

"Sweet Sweet Spirit"

**UMH 334**

##### Verse 1

There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord  
There are sweet expressions on each face  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord

##### Chorus

Sweet Holy Spirit  
Sweet heavenly Dove  
Stay right here with us  
Filling us with you love  
And for these blessings  
We lift our hearts in praise  
Without a doubt we'll know  
That we have been revived  
When we shall leave this place

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#### Benediction

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

A surprised John asked Jesus,

**"... and do you come to me?"**

Jesus came to him with a surprising request.

**Jesus comes to each of us, inviting us to bold and hopeful action.**

So when God calls, when Jesus arrives,

**we will answer the call and step forward.**

We will bring hope to those suffering injustice,

**and light to those in darkness,**

Through the power of the Spirit,

**we go to live our lives to the fullest. Amen.**

#### Postlude

"This Little Light of Mine" arr. by Calvin Taylor

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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### **Question for Reflection**

*In Romans 8:29 Paul wrote that God meant for Jesus to be “the firstborn within a large family.”  
What does that mean to you? What does your baptism have to do with it??*

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

God, you make old things pass away and declare new things to be. (Isa. 42:9)  
As I am renewed in my baptism this morning,  
help me to confirm my baptismal vows in my life today. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Holy One, you stretched out the heavens and spread out the earth, Isa. 42:5  
and in that context I give you this small day that I have lived.  
Now may I sleep, safe and secure in your covenant promise to me  
that I am your beloved child, in whom you are well pleased.. Amen.

### **Resources:**

- \* GLORY REVEALED. EPIPHANY, Year A Worship Series. UMC Discipleship Ministries, 2025.
- \*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.
- \*Abingdon Worship Annual 2026 ©2025

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