

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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March 15, 2026

9:30 am

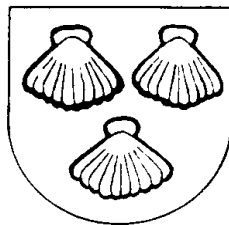
“The Way Home”

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj
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Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark
Organist: Clarice Snyder

Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



Saint James United Methodist Church

Marriottsville, MD410-442-2020

stjamessec@verizon.net

Gathering

Prelude "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" *Offered by Jane Ohlmacher*
Arranged by Mark Hayes, Composer Robert Jackson, Copyright 2016 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Welcome *Mary Anne Espenshade*

Introit "Jesus, Lover of My Soul – II" *Handbell Choir*

Aberystwyth
Joseph Parry
Arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson
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Prayer for the Path *Mary Anne Espenshade*

**Our God who is our Home, be with us on The Way.
At times we aren't sure about the relationship of the road we travel
and the home we seek. Will we ever feel like we have arrived?
We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance in the home that Jesus promises.
And whether we are feeling lost or at home, may we know you are always with us.
Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** "I Lift Up My Soul"

Refrain

To You, Yahweh, I lift up my soul O my God.
To You, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God.

1. Yahweh, show your ways to me.
Teach me Your paths and
Keep me in the ways of Your truth,
For You are the God that saves me.

Refrain

2. The Lord is so good, so holy.
Sinners find the way,
And in all that is right He guides the humble.
The poor he leads in His pathways.

Refrain

3. All day long I hope in your goodness.
Remember Your love,
The love that You promised long ago.
And the kindness that you gave from of old.

Refrain

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Passing the Peace *Mary Anne Espenshade*

Proclaiming

Children's Message *Edie Candee*

Scripture **Psalm 25:4-10 (NRSVUE)** *Mary Anne Espenshade*
Luke 15: 11b-32 (NRSVUE)

Word in Music "Jesus Is Calling" *Handbell Choir*

THOMPSON, by Will L. Thompson, 1880 with NEW BRITAIN, Virginia Harmony, 1831
Arranged by Mitchell Eithun

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Message

“The Way Home”

Rev. Patricia Abell

Responding

Song of Contemplation

[sung]

Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive

**Prayer and Contemplation
Lord’s Prayer**

Mary Anne Espenshade

Offertory

“Arise (Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy)”

Handbell Choir

Traditional American Melody
Arranged by Bill Ingram

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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

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Going Forth

***Closing Hymn**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

UMH 127

1. Guide me O Thou great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with Thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven Bread of heaven
Feed me ‘till I want no more
Feed me ‘till I want no more

2. Open now the crystal fountain
Whence they healing stream doth flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through
Strong deliverer Strong deliverer
Be thou still my strength and shield
Be thou still my strength and shield

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee
I will ever give to Thee

CCLI Song # 1448

John Hughes | Peter Williams | William Williams Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

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Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Response: “We will follow on The Way.”

*Please stand as able

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A Daily Lenten Habit

Let us begin and end each day in prayer. Let us linger with Scripture not to master it, but to be shaped by it. Let us practice silence and meditation, allowing the Spirit to search, convict, and console us.

Guided Lenten Prayer for the Fast

Holy God, As we fast, empty us any selfishness or that which does not seek justice for our neighbors.
As we pray, fill us with your Spirit.
As we give, loosen our grip on fear and scarcity.
As we serve, teach us compassion without condition.
As we walk mindfully, make us aware of your presence in every step.
By Easter, raise us into new life; more faithful, more loving, more joyful in Christ. Amen.

Morning Prayer (5-10 minutes)

Invocation: Lord, Jesus Christ, I offer you this day. As I fast, shape my yearnings, guide my steps, and make me an instrument of your love. As I grow in my discipleship, increase my desire to serve others in your Name.

Scripture Reading: Follow the [Daily Lectionary Readings](#) for the Lenten Season

Monday, March 16, 2026: [Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20;](#)

Tuesday, March 17, 2026: [Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14;](#)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026: [Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34;](#)

Thursday, March 19, 2026: [Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11;](#)

Friday, March 20, 2026: [Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19;](#)

Saturday, March 21, 2026: [Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53;](#)

Silence (1-3 minutes) Breathe slowly and repeat: Christ, be my sufficiency.

Midday Practice (2-5 minutes)

Mindfulness Pause:

Stop. Breathe. Notice God's presence.

Ask: Where have I seen Christ today? How may I open my heart more to others?

Evening Examen (10-15 minutes)

Become aware of each breath as you inhale and exhale. Listen for the Spirit's leading.

1. Name moments of grace.
2. Examine where you loved well and where you resisted love.
3. Offer any failure to God's mercy.
4. Seek God's strength and power for tomorrow.

Resources:

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