

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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May 24, 2026

9:30 am

“Spirit Unbounded”

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

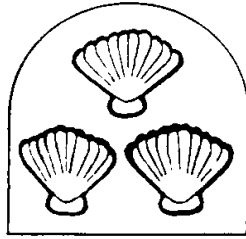
Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj

Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark

Director of Music Ministry: Kelli Young

Guest Accompanist: Nelda Clelland

Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



Saint James United Methodist Church

Marriottsville, MD 410-442-2020

stjamessec@verizon.net

Gathering

Prelude
Clelland

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit” arr. by M. Hayes

Offered by Nelda

Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Gathering Song

“I’m Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”

UMH 333

1. I’m gonna sing* when the Spirit says sing
I’m gonna sing* when the Spirit says sing
I’m gonna sing* when the Spirit says sing
And obey the Spirit of the Lord

2. *pray
3. *moan
4. *shout

Afro-American spiritual, adapted by William Farley Smith, 1986
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing Co.

Call to Worship

Mary Anne Espenshade

ONE: Beloved, the Spirit of Truth gathers us here to receive and discern God’s good news working among us.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

2*Please stand as able

The Spirit of Love draws us together to receive and restore life-giving relationships with God and one another.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit of Freedom knits us together to receive and renew the bonds of empathy, justice, and peace that bind us together in the work for liberation and wholeness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Beloved, the Holy Spirit is here, moving and working among us. Will you come and receive all the Spirit has to give?

We come to receive the Spirit's abundant and gracious gifts that we may be a people who live out God's truth, love, and freedom in our neighborhood, community, and throughout all creation. Amen.

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

Opening Prayer

Mary Anne Espenshade

Send forth your Spirit, O God, and renew the face of the earth. Dwell among us, even though your presence will startle and unsettle us. Grant us your peace, we pray, as justice and love pour down upon the yearning earth. Amen.

Written by Mary Sue Gast in *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, Updated, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 105. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.

*Opening Hymn

"Spirit of God"

TFWS 2117

1. Spirit of God, bright Wind,
breath that bids life begin,
blow as you always do; create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing,
lifted on soaring wing,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

2. Spirit of God, bright Dove,
grant us your peace and love,
Healing upon your wings for all living things.
For when we live your peace,
captives will find release,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

3. Spirit of God, bright Hands,
even in far-off lands
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.
No matter where we go
you hold us together so,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

4. Spirit of God, bright Flame,
send us in your holy name,
The power to heal, to share your love everywhere.
We cannot fail or fall,
or know defeat at all,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

3*Please stand as able

5. Spirit of God in all,
we gladly hear your call,
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise,
love shining in our eyes,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

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Prayer of Confession

Mary Anne Espenshade

ONE: The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

Silent prayer

ALL: Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good." Used with permission. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>.

Passing the Peace

Mary Anne Espenshade

The peace of Christ be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Proclaiming

Children's Message

Edie Candee

Scripture

Numbers 11: 24-30 (NRSVue)

Mary Anne Espenshade

Acts 2: 1-21 (NRSVue)

Word in Music

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

UMH 404

Refrain

Every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke,
out his mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me looks so shine,
ask my Lord if all was mine.

Refrain

2. Jordan river runs right cold,
chills the body, not the soul.

Ain't but one train on this track,
runs to heaven and right back.

Refrain

Afro-American Spiritual

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Message

“Spirit Unbounded”

Rev. Patricia Abell

**Prayer of Intercession
Lord’s Prayer**

Mary Anne Espenshade

***Doxology**

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 94

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

CCLI Song # 3063266 | Gilbert H. Vieira | Ralph Vaughan Williams | Thomas Ken

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Going Forth

***Closing Hymn**

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

UMH 540

1. I love Thy kingdom Lord
The house of Thine abode
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood

2. I love thy church O God
Her walls before thee stand
Dear as the apple of thine eye
And graven on thy hand

3. For her my tears shall fall
For her my prayers ascend
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end

4. Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways
Her sweet communion solemn vows
Her hymns of love and praise

5. Sure as Thy truth shall last
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heaven

CCLI Song # 100095

Aaron Williams | Timothy Dwight

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5*Please stand as able

Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

“Kum Ba Yah” arr. by J. Behnke

Offered by Nelda Clelland

Question for Reflection

What gift of yours, of your family, and of your community has the Holy Spirit especially nurtured in recent times? How might that gift be expressed and used in a new way in the coming year?

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God, we thank you for the peace of good sleep and for keeping us safe throughout the night. Let this new day be a time of praise and joy as we go out to meet you in our sisters and brothers. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God, for all that we have done and failed to do this day we turn to you for respite. Forgive us for having shunned your desires; rejoice with us over moments that have filled us with joy. Bless your people in every land with peace. Protect us now through the night that we may wake again to praise your name. Let the Holy Spirit abide in this house. Amen.

Resources: Stories That Matter @ UMC Discipleship Ministries <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/spiritunbound>

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press



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Saint James UMC is a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore-Washington

6*Please stand as able

Conference of the United Methodist Church