

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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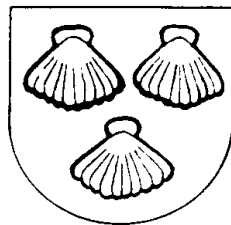
**September 12, 2021**

**“Hearts on Fire: Tongues of Fire”**

**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

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Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj      |      Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark  
Director of Music Ministry: Antuan Hairston      |      Organist: Clarice Snyder  
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



**Saint James United Methodist Church**

Marriottsville, MD

# WE GATHER

## Prelude

“Lift High the Cross” (setting by John Carter)

*offered by Clarice Snyder, piano*

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## Welcome

*Rev. Patricia Abell*

## Introit

“Pass It On” (vs. 1 & chorus)

*UMH 572*

### Verse 1

It only takes a spark  
To get a fire going  
And soon all those around  
Can warm up in its glowing  
That's how it is with God's love  
Once you've experienced it  
You spread His love to ev'ryone  
You want to pass it on

## Call to Worship

ONE: Look at the heavens!

**They are shouting the glory of God.**

The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative works.

**Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of the world.**

Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

**Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!**

*Nancy Janson*

*Ps. 19:1–4, 14*

“Pass It On” (chorus only)

*UMH 572*

That's how it is with God's love  
Once you've experienced it  
You spread His love to ev'ryone  
You want to pass it on

CCLI Song # 14284

Kurt Kaiser

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## Opening Prayer

**O God, you created the world through your Word. Your Word is powerful!**

**And so are our words. They can heal, create a smile, be a declaration of love;  
but they can also hurt and destroy a sense of self-worth.**

**Give us your wisdom, God of the Word, so that as a church and as individuals,  
we use our words to build up and not to destroy. Amen.**

*Nancy Janson*

**Verse 1**

Praise the Source of faith and learning  
 That has sparked and stoked the mind  
 With a passion for discerning  
 How the world has been designed  
 Let the sense of wonder flowing  
 From the wonders we survey  
 Keep our faith forever growing  
 And renew our need to pray

**Verse 2**

God of wisdom we acknowledge  
 That our science and our art  
 And the breadth of human knowledge  
 Only partial truth impart  
 Far beyond our calculation  
 Lies a depth we cannot sound  
 Where your purpose for creation  
 And the pulse of life are found

**Verse 3**

May our faith redeem the blunder  
 of believing that our thought  
 has displaced the grounds for wonder  
 which the ancient prophets taught.  
 May our learning curb the error  
 which unthinking faith can breed  
 lest we justify some terror  
 with an antiquated creed.

**Verse 4**

As two currents in a river  
 Fight each other’s undertow  
 Till converging they deliver  
 One coherent steady flow  
 Blend O God our faith and learning  
 Till they carve a single course  
 Till they join as one returning  
 Praise and thanks to you the Source

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**Children’s Moment*****Donna Benson*****Scripture****James 3:1-12 (CEB)*****Nancy Janson***

<sup>3</sup> My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> We all make mistakes often, but those who don’t make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. <sup>3</sup> When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

<sup>4</sup> Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

<sup>7</sup> People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. <sup>8</sup> No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

<sup>11</sup> Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? <sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

### **Mark 8: 27-38 (CEB)**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

<sup>28</sup> They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." <sup>30</sup> Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One<sup>[a]</sup> must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." <sup>32</sup> He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

<sup>34</sup> After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. <sup>36</sup> Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? <sup>37</sup> What will people give in exchange for their lives? <sup>38</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One<sup>[b]</sup> will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

### **Anthem**

"Christians, We Have Met to Worship"

***Offered by Susan Day, flautist, and Clarice Snyder, pianist***

Arranged by Brant Adams  
Tune: Holy Manna  
From Columbian Harmony, 1825; attr. William Moore, 19<sup>th</sup> c  
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### **Message**

"Tongues of Fire"

***Rev. Patricia Abell***

### **Prayers for God's People, the Church and the World**

Share your prayer requests at [pastor.saintjames@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.saintjames@verizon.net) or [stjamessec@verizon.net](mailto:stjamessec@verizon.net) or write requests on prayer slips provided and place in the Giving Box.

Let us pray for the church, the nations, and all people seeking God's mercy and care, saying, God of love, **hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Offering Invitation and Prayer

#### 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

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#### Closing Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

**UMH 159**

#### Chorus

Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name

#### Verse 2

Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

#### Chorus

#### Verse 1

Come Christians follow this triumphant sign  
The hosts of God in unity combine

#### Chorus

#### Verse 3

O Lord once lifted on the glorious tree  
As thou hast promised draw the world to thee

#### Chorus

#### Verse 4

So shall our song of triumph ever be  
Praise to the Crucified for victory

#### Chorus

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#### Benediction

#### Postlude

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (setting by John A. Behnke)

***Offered by Clarice Snyder, organ***

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### **Questions for Reflection**

*How do you seek God's wisdom in your life? What are the signs and symbols of God's presence that surround your everyday life?*

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

*As I open my eyes,  
I can see the heavens that tell of your glory.  
Allow me to be part of this creation that proclaims your handiwork  
and your real presence in the world. Amen.*

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

*As the day winds down,  
allow me to find satisfaction in the thought  
that I have taken my cross and followed you.  
Allow me to find rest in the knowledge  
that I did not act as if I was ashamed of you.  
And if I failed you, forgive me and allow me to find solace  
in the new mercies of the morning. Amen.*

### **RESOURCES:**

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