

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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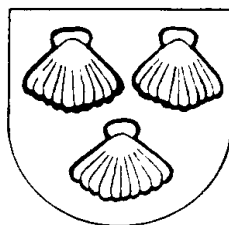
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March 30, 2025
9:30 am

Steadfast Love
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

410-442-2020 stjamessec@verizon.net

Gathering

Prelude

“God So Loved the World” John Stainer arr. by Robert W. Thygerson

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Lighting the Prayer Candle

One: The light shines in the darkness.

All: We stand in this light, unshaken, knowing that the darkness has never overcome the light.

One: Let us recommit ourselves to walking in Jesus' ways of justice.

All: Empower us, Jesus, to boldly use the freedom and power given to us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Call to Prayer and Praise

“What Wondrous Love Is This?” (vs.1)

UMH 292

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

Music: USA folk hymn; harm. by Paul J. Christiansen, 1955 (MH harm by Carlton R. Young)
Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983 Augsburg Publishing House

Call to Worship

Susan Mascaro

ONE: When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

ALL: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2024.

*Opening Prayer

Susan Mascaro

Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he “came to himself.” Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might notice Your arms open in welcome. Amen.

Adapted from Ann Siddall, in *Lent to Easter liturgies: Year C*. Posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre, <https://s=llpointcentre.com.au/>.

Prayer of Confession

Susan Mascaro

God, we admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are

*Please stand as able

not found out. But there is no place to hide from you. Our silence only makes us sick in body and spirit. But you delight in forgiving us and in covering our sin. You are glad when we confess our failings and our needs. Hide us, O God, from trouble; teach us the way we should go. Deliver us from our own stubbornness, and draw us near, we pray. Amen.

Written by Valerie Bridgeman Davis in *The Africana Worship Book, Year C* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008), 147.

Words of Assurance (2 Corinthians 5)

Susan Mascaro

Everything old has passed away.

In Christ, you are a new creation, full of mercy and grace.

In Christ, you are a new creation, full of mercy and grace.

***Opening Hymn**

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

UMH 496

1. Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return sweet hour of prayer

2. Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer
The joys I feel the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my savior shows His face
And gladly take my station there
And wait for thee sweet hour of prayer

3. Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless
And since He bids me seek His face
Believe His Word and trust His grace
I'll cast on Him my every care
And wait for thee sweet hour of prayer

CCLI Song # 32273

William Batchelder Bradbury | William W. Walford

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Passing of the Peace

Susan Mascaro

Proclaiming

Children's Moment

Donna Benson

Scripture

Psalm 32 (NRSVue)

Susan Mascaro

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSVue)

Word in Music

“Reckless Love”

Praise Team

CCLI Song # 7089641

Caleb Culver | Cory Asbury | Ran Jackson

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Message

“Steadfast Love”

Rev. Patricia Abell

Response

Prayers of Intercession

Susan Mascaro

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Lord’s Prayer

Susan Mascaro

Offertory

“Breathe”

Praise Team

CCLI Song # 7179198

Chandler Moore | Doe Jones | Jonathan McReynolds | Pat Barrett

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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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Offering Prayer

Going Forth

*Closing Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

UMH 140

1. Great is Thy faithfulness
 O God my Father
 There is no shadow
 Of turning with Thee
 Thou changest not
 Thy compassions they fail not
 As Thou hast been
 Thou forever wilt be

2. Summer and winter
 And springtime and harvest
 Sun moon and stars
 In their courses above
 Join with all nature
 In manifold witness
 To Thy great faithfulness
 Mercy and love

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness
 Great is Thy faithfulness
 Morning by morning new mercies I see
 All I have needed thy hand hath provided
 Great is Thy faithfulness
 Lord unto me

3. Pardon for sin
 And a peace that endureth
 Thine own dear presence
 To cheer and to guide
 Strength for today
 And bright hope for tomorrow
 Blessings all mine
 With ten thousand beside

Refrain

CCLI Song # 18723

Thomas Obediah Chisholm | William Marion Runyan

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*Please stand as able

Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

“What Wondrous Love is This” arr. by John Purifoy

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

In what ways am I like the Prodigal Son?
In what ways am I like the elder son??

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, in all I do this day, use me as a sign of your reconciling love.
Let me not view anyone from a human point of view,
but let me see all whom I will encounter with the eyes of Christ, through whom I pray.. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God, if like the Prodigal Son I have strayed
from you this day, call me back to your loving embrace.
If like the elder son, I have harbored resentment
for the grace you give to others, reprove me.
Help me claim in thought and deed the inheritance of the saints
who share with Jesus compassion and forgiveness to all who lose their way. Amen

Resources: *Steadfast Love; Discipleship Ministries, 2025. umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/steadfast-love

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