

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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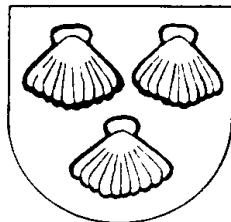
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**April 6, 2025
9:30 am**

Fill Me With Laughter 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 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Brian Henkelmann *Offered by Clarice Snyder*
(UMH 299/298) with Jane Ohlmacher on Clarinet

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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. 3) *UMH 292*

3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing.

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 *Eddie Candee*

ONE: We come to worship, remembering God's goodness that has carried us and sustained us to this present moment.

ALL: We remember the days when God covered us in love and filled us with joy.

We come to worship, weary from stress, heavy with grief, and wondering when relief will come.

We long for the days God covered us in love and filled us with joy.

We come to worship to remember and remind one another that God's love has never left us, and God's joy cannot be extinguished.

God, restore us that we know your love and your joy once again.

We come to worship to remember and become the Body of Christ, a community called to restore the world around us.

God, empower us to be your restoration people who fill the world with love, laughter, and abundant life. Amen.

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

***Opening Prayer** *Eddie Candee*

**Come to this sanctuary, this house, this home, Holy Christ,
And let us receive you with lavish welcome.**

**You are the Restorer of our fortunes,
The Promise of new life –**

**We pour out our praise to you.
Fill this room with your Spirit:
The sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume
And fill our hearts with your compassion,
Not just in this time and place,
But in all times and in all places,
So that as we celebrate the great things you have done for us,
We may also embody the love you give to all. Amen.**

Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive, <http://www.ucc.org/>.

Prayer of Confession

Edie Candee

Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we focus on a perceived golden past, and so we ignore the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus. Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem.

Adapted from Thom Shuman, posted at <https://pilgrimwr.uni-ngchurch.org.au/?p=2008>.

Words of Assurance

Edie Candee

Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“The Fragrance of Christ”

TFWS 2205

Refrain

Lord may our prayer rise
Like incense in your sight
May this place be filled
With the fragrance of Christ

1. I will thank you Lord with all of my heart
You have heard the words of my mouth
In the presence of the Lord I will bless you
I will adore before your holy temple

Refrain

2. I will thank you Lord for your faithfulness and love
Beyond all my hopes and dreams
On the day that I called you answered
You gave life to the strength of my soul

Refrain

3. All who live on earth shall give you thanks
When they hear the words of your voice
And all shall sing of your ways
How great is the glory of God

Refrain

Words and Music: David Haas
© 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

Passing of the Peace

Edie Candee

*Please stand as able

Proclaiming

Children’s Moment

Tainya Clarke

Scripture

Psalm 126 (NRSVue)

Edie Candee

John 12: 1-8 (NRSVue)

Word in Music

“More Precious Than Silver”

TFWS 2065

Lord You are more precious than silver
Lord You are more costly than gold
Lord You are more beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire compares with You

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Message

“Fill Me With Laughter”

Rev. Patricia Abell

Response

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Patricia Abell

***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

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

“Feed Us, Lord”

W & S 3167

1. Feed us Lord feed us Lord
In the broken bread be revealed again
Come and feed our hearts O Lord

2. Quench us Lord quench us Lord
On this thirsty ground may your love flow down
Come and quench our hearts O Lord

3. Fill us Lord fill us Lord
With the bread and wine of the risen Christ
Come and fill our hearts O Lord

4. Lead us Lord lead us Lord
Nourished here by Christ given strength for life
Come and lead our hearts O Lord

CCLI Song # 4636207
Greg Scheer
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*Please stand as able

Going Forth

*Closing Hymn

“I Surrender All”

UMH 354

1. All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

Refrain

I surrender all I surrender all
All to thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

2. All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now

Refrain

3. All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that thou art mine

Refrain

4. All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

Refrain

5. All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation
Glory glory to his name

Refrain

CCLI Song # 23189

Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter | Winfield Scott Weeden

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Benediction

Rev. Patricia Abell

Postlude

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” Lee Dengler

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

John 12:1–8 draws our attention to three people: Mary, Judas, and Jesus.

It is easy enough to identify Mary as “the good disciple” and Judas as “the bad disciple” not only in this story but also in the larger story of Jesus’ life and death.

We can (and do) make this judgment: Mary is accepted and affirmed, while Judas is rejected.

But is this the judgment that the other person in the story would make? As one commentator puts it, “. . . if Jesus came to save the lost, surely there is no one in the gospel story who is more lost than the one who betrays Jesus. . . . If the Good Shepherd can and does go to any length to save a lost sheep, is Judas beyond the saving grasp of the Good Shepherd?”†

This is not a question with an easy answer. As this story ushers you into Holy Week, consider how the cross, the grace of Christ, speaks to this story and to your own life story, which like most life stories may not be a simple “either/or” example of faithfulness, but a “both/and” mix of faithfulness and unfaithfulness.

Household Prayer: Morning

Merciful God, as I begin this day,
place in me a spirit of generosity
so that I may freely share love, joy, and encouragement with those I encounter.
Keep me from quick judgments
so that I leave room for your grace in my life and in the lives of others.
Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions,
as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

All through the day, Lord Jesus, you have been present.
As I settle into the routines of home and evening, I long to be at home in my relationship with you.
Help me to put aside the cares of the day and the worries of tomorrow to fully enjoy the peace of your
presence now.
I pray that your peace will also be with those I know who have special need of your care tonight,
and I pray for those who lie down this night without the safety of home or bed,
without enough food or resources.
Bring your light into the surrounding darkness so that all of us may sleep in the security of your love. 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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