

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

May 15, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER // ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Karen Randall

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Let All Things Now Living

GTG #37

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our creator triumphantly raise
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us
By guiding us on to the end of our days
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished
As forward we travel from light into light

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
The sun in its orbit obediently shine
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus reminded the disciples

Love one another as I have loved you.

Jesus taught and witnessed to God's love

Love one another as I have loved you.

Jesus encourages us to love each other with tenderness, compassion, and hope.

Let us love one another as Christ loved us. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Alpha and Omega, you make your home with us, you dry our tears and quench our thirst, you are the tender love that welcomes all people. Like a mother, you nurture your children, giving them life, teaching them to love. Come and dwell among us, and make all things new. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 11:1 – 18

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
(John Rutter)

SJU Chancel Choir

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies
For the love, which from our birth, over and around us lies
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:31 – 35

TIME WITH CHILDREN

What Everyone Needs to Know

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“EVER-EXPANDING VISION”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Loving God, we are often upset by people who are not like us—
those who think differently,
those who act differently,
those who speak differently.

Our parched hearts are thirsty for your love. Our dry spirits are thirsty for your waters of
life. Pour your love over us and transform us, that we may embrace all people as your own.
Amen.

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

Today We All are Called to Be Disciples

GTG #757

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease
A world that was created for a harmony of peace

May we in service to our God act out the living word
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Loving God, you have given us the task to love one another. May the gifts we offer bring love and life to others. May the love we share bring hope to a world that has forgotten how to love. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Soon and Very Soon

GTG #384

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more crying there....
No more dying there...

BENEDICTION

May the love of God which was lavished upon you by Jesus Christ be in your hearts, your minds, and your spirits as you go forth into God's world. Be bearers of peace and hope to all you meet, and may God's peace be with you always. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Acts 11:1 – 18

11:1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

11:2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him,

11:3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

11:4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,

11:5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.

11:6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.

11:7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

11:8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

11:9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'

11:10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

11:11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

11:12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

11:13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;

11:14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.

11:16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

11:17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

11:18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

John 13:31 – 35

13:31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

13:32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

13:33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

13:34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."