

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

August 7, 2022

NINTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & 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

“How Firm a Foundation”

GTG #463

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord calls us today to be people of justice and mercy.

Our worship is hollow if it focuses only on our own gratification.

The Lord asks that our words of hope become actions of peace.

Thanks be to God who challenges and calls us.

Let our ministry together bring peace and justice.

Let our lives reflect God's love and mercy. AMEN.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, you know how easy it is for us to celebrate with joy the wonders of your love. Yet sometimes, we have left our service to you as mere thoughts and intentions without fulfillment. You ask us to be ready to serve you at any time, but we place our commitment on the "to do" list of life; we will do these things when we get to them. Forgive our tendency to seek first our own comfort before we engage in acts of justice and mercy. Open our eyes and ears to the cries of those in need. Help us to give and also to receive ministries of love and reconciliation as we serve you with our whole hearts. Then our lives will truly reflect your awesome and abundant love for us. AMEN.

(a time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

It is God's good pleasure to give us the kin-dom. It is our joy to serve God by helping each other and all those in need. Be assured of God's tender mercy toward you and continue that love in all that you do. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1 – 3, 8 – 16

ANTHEM

“Lean On Me”

Destini Nyorkor
soloist

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain, we all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill
Those of your needs that you won't let show

You just call on me brother when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load
you have to bear that you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load if you just call me

SECOND READING

Luke 12:32 – 40

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Treasures in Heaven”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“**DRESSED FOR ACTION**”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

CALL TO GENEROSITY

(Rev. Roger Lynn; sung to the tune of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”)

Praise God for love in all its forms
Love sees us through both calm and storms
God’s love is meant for us to share
May we, in love, reach out with care.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him.
Come to the Lord's Table, just as you are.
Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to you, Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to praise you, Lord.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy Triune God, Eternal Parent, Son and Holy Spirit. From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is praised among all peoples.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with your people on earth and all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full...full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes In the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, Almighty One! Blessed are you, Jesus Christ! In the power of the Spirit you created all things, blessed them, and called them good. You called to yourself a people to make your mercy and truth known in all the world.

BENEDICTION

People of God, made ready by God's love and mercy: Go forth into God's world to serve in ministries of justice, kindness and peace. Know always that God's peace is with you.
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

Hebrews 11:1 – 3, 8 – 16

11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

11:2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

11:9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

11:10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

11:11 By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old--and Sarah herself was barren--because he considered him faithful who had promised.

11:12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

11:13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,

11:14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

11:15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32 – 40

12:32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

12:33 Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

12:35 "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;

12:36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

12:37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

12:38 If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

12:39 "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

12:40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."