

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

May 24, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER // ONLINE SERVICE

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Ingrid Sampson

OPENING SONG

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
(video)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives. We need not look up to find God; we need only to look around:

**within ourselves,
beyond ourselves,
into the eyes of another.**

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God; we need only listen to:

**the music of life,
the words of children,
the questions of the curious,
the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

O Christ, the risen One, ascended into heaven, yet closer than our own breath, draw us into your presence. Be near to us — near to our praises, our prayers, our words, our songs; near to our wonderings, our tentative answers, our hidden doubts, our deepest affirmations. Be near to us, risen Lord. Amen.

READING

Acts 1:6 – 14

ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray (video)
First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia
(with permission)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Karen Randall

MESSAGE

“YOU WILL BE WITNESSES!”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

CALL TO GENEROSITY

We are to be witnesses to the power and presence of God’s love toward all, even to the ends of the earth! Out of this call to reach and serve the whole world, let us give our gifts today to be used in support of ones who need the promises of God.

OFFERTORY SONG

My Life is In You, Lord

My life is in you, Lord
My strength is in you, Lord
My hope is in you, Lord
In you, it's in you (Repeat)

I will praise you with all of my life
I will praise you with all of my strength
With all of my life, with all of my strength.
All of my hope is in you

My life is in you, Lord
My strength is in you, Lord
My hope is in you, Lord
In you, it's in you (Repeat)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER/CALL TO PRAYER

Gayelle Sama

Congregational Reaffirmation of Faith

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Gayelle now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Gayelle with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Commendation and Welcome into St. John United Church

Members of the household of God, I commend Gayelle to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

May the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

CLOSING SONG

Siyahamba (video)
Mwamba Children's Chorus

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

As we leave this place, let us depart in the assurance that God does not remain hidden in a cloud, concealed from us.

God is still among us!

Let us not gaze longingly at heaven for a sign.

God is revealed!

Let us glimpse the face of Christ in one another. Let us celebrate the Holy Spirit, who works in our community. Let us give glory to God our Creator, today and every day.
Amen.

Acts 1:6-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.