

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

August 9, 2020

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // ONLINE SERVICE
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Liturgist: Alvin Thompson

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

“Jupiter” from The Planets by Gustav Holst
Ingrid Sampson, instrumental

OPENING SONG

Let Your Light Shine (Keb' Mo')
(video)

Chorus:

*Let your light shine
Let your love show
It's a short ride down a long road
When the rains come and the winds blow
Let your light shine wherever you go*

You say you want to get over
What are you gonna do?
Watch the world go by in a corner all alone
And I know it's none of my business
But there's something I need to say
If you could see the way I see you
You'd start flying on your own

Chorus

This world is ready and waiting
For you to break on through
And it's time to recognize,
Too realize you're the only one like you
Step on up, step into your greatness
Don't be afraid
There's a place that you will rise up to
No one else can do what you do

Chorus

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sunshine and celebration! Rain and remembrance! All are part of the richness of God's mercy and love for us!

God has blessed us in so many ways!

Welcome this day to a celebration of these blessings!

Thank you. We are glad to be here!

Lord, open our hearts and spirits to your love

We place our trust in you, for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we come to you this day, seeking your healing and restoring love. Give us courage to reach out to you in the good and easy times as well as in the times of strain and stress. Open our hearts to receive your message of peace and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

READING

Matthew 14:22 – 33 (NIV)

ANTHEM

Just a Little Bit
VBS song

(video)

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:14 – 21 (CEB)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Celebration of Vacation Bible School: God Can Do

MESSAGE

“GO BEYOND”

Jen McClurg

CALL TO GENEROSITY

The richness of God's mercy is poured over us every minute of our lives, even when we least expect it. We offer our gifts and tithes in gratitude for all that God does for and with us, that we might become better servants of the Gospel bringing hope and justice in the world. AMEN.

CLOSING SONG

“We Will Go”
(video)

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by God's power at work within us!

Go beyond with Faith

Go beyond with Boldness

Go beyond with Kindness

Go Beyond with Thankfulness

Go beyond with Hope!

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

Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV) *Jesus Walks on the Water*

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Ephesians 3:14 – 21 (CEB)

¹⁴ This is why I kneel before the Father. ¹⁵ Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. ¹⁶ I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. ¹⁷ I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, ¹⁸ I ask that you’ll have the power to grasp love’s width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. ¹⁹ I ask that you’ll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.

²⁰ Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; ²¹ glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.