



# Johnsville United Methodist Church

Union Bridge, MD

Our mission is to nurture the members of the congregation in developing a personal relationship with God and to share His word and His love with the larger community.

PRAISE, WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

October 17, 2021

PRELUDE

“In His Time”

WELCOME

Opening Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

UMH 154

1. All hail the power of Jesus’ name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race,  
ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace,  
And crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace,  
And crown him Lord of all.

3. Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget  
the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all.

4. Let every kindred, every tribe  
on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown him Lord of all.

5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,  
who from his altar call,  
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,  
and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown him Lord of all.

Call to Worship: (Job 38, Psalm 104)

Leader: Behold God in the heavens, stretched out like a tent.

**People: Hear God's voice in the winds, whispering words of life and love.**

Leader: Witness God's glory in fire and flame, dancing colors of orange and red.

**People: Take refuge in God on the mountains, silent, strong, and immovable.**

Leader: Rest in the wisdom of God, hidden in the clouds above and seas below.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

Opening Prayer (*Job 38, Psalm 104, Mark 10*)

**God of majesty and might, may your untamable wisdom blow through our lives  
like a mighty whirlwind, upsetting our self-serving truths and preoccupied ways.**

**Disrupt our sunny assurance of your favor with a thunderous call to serve our neighbor. Stir  
up a tempest within our hearts, that we may behold the glory of your baptism— a baptism into  
kindness and compassion, love and generosity of spirit. Clothe us with your love, that we may  
be a people of hope, a people of prayer, a people of true spirit, through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.**

Special Music

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We are so sure of ourselves, O God.

In the midst of our suffering,

we wonder how it could happen to us;

we wonder why you allowed it to happen at all.

How easily we forget

that Job was blameless in your sight,

yet found himself in the path of the tornado.

How quickly we look for answers

to questions beyond our ability to comprehend.

How often we darken counsel

with words of accusation without wisdom.

Forgive us, Lord.

Forgive us when we seek to sit at your right hand,  
rather than accepting the role of the servant.

Forgive us when we look for comfort and ease  
in your cup and in your baptism.

Answer us in your whirlwind once more.

Teach us that suffering is not sent to punish,  
but that through our suffering,

we may better understand and heal  
the pain of others.

We lift up to you now those who need your healing touch . . .

Thank you for the blessings in our lives . . . Amen.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

“Seek Ye First”

UMH 405

1. Seek ye first  
the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things  
shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

2. Ask, and it shall  
be given unto you;  
seek and ye shall find;  
knock, and the door shall  
be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

Seek ye first the  
kingdom of God  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things  
shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture Lesson: Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:  
‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?  
Gird up your loins like a man,  
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.  
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?  
On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone  
when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

Psalter Reading Psalm 104:1-13, 24-35

UMH 826-827

**Response: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation.**

ONE: <sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**ALL: O Lord my God, you are very great!**

ONE: You are clothed with honor and majesty,<sup>2</sup> and cover yourself with light as with a garment;

**ALL: you have stretched out the heavens like a tent, <sup>3</sup>and have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters;**

ONE: you make the clouds your chariot, and ride on the wings of the wind;

**ALL: <sup>4</sup>you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.**

ONE: <sup>5</sup>You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken.

**ALL: <sup>6</sup>You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.**

ONE: <sup>7</sup>At your rebuke they fled;

**ALL: at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.**

ONE: <sup>8</sup>They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys, to the place which you appointed for them.

**ALL: <sup>9</sup>You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.**

**Response: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation.**

ONE: <sup>10</sup>You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills;

**ALL: <sup>11</sup>they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst.**

ONE: <sup>12</sup>Above the springs the birds of the air have their nests, they sing among the branches.

**ALL: <sup>13</sup>From your lofty places you water the mountains, with the fruit of your work the earth is satisfied.**

**Response: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation.**

ONE: <sup>24</sup>O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**ALL: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

ONE: <sup>25</sup>Yonder is the sea, great and wide,

**ALL: creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.**

ONE: <sup>26</sup>There go the ships, and Leviathan whom you formed to play in it.

**ALL: <sup>27</sup>These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.**

ONE: <sup>28</sup>When you give to them, they gather it;

**ALL: when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

ONE: <sup>29</sup>When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

**ALL: when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

ONE: <sup>30</sup>When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

**ALL: and you renew the face of the ground.**

ONE: <sup>31</sup>May the glory of the Lord endure for ever, may the Lord rejoice in his works,

**ALL: <sup>32</sup>who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!**

ONE: <sup>33</sup>I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

**ALL: I will sing praises to my God while I have being.**

ONE: <sup>34</sup>May my meditation be pleasing to the Lord in whom I rejoice.

**ALL: <sup>35</sup>Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!**

ONE: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

**Response: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation.**

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon:

"Faith in the Midst of the Storm"

Pastor Shari McCourt

Today we will check in with Job. Let's remember who Job is. Job's character is described as "blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil." Job was a man of utmost integrity and had a strong relationship with God. He was blessed with a large family. He had seven sons, and three daughters. He was also a wealthy man with numerous livestock. He was the wealthiest man in the east. He always asked for forgiveness for his children just in case they may have sinned against God and God's covenant. Job loved his children very much. Job was a thankful

man for the many blessings from God. Satan tested Job, he lost everything; his family, his material possessions, and his health. That brings us to today.

Job had been complaining to God, wondering where God was in the midst of his loss, and suffering. Job was seeking a confrontation with God and yet dreading it, just a little. So, how would you feel if you were asking for a confrontation with God, and you got it? Job had characterized God as unjust, savagely violent, and rather inadequate as a creator providing for creation. Job is so easy to identify with because most of us have endured disappointment, life challenges, and some of us have suffered for periods of time.

When we look into the world, and see through our newspapers, internet access and televisions the natural disasters, wars, prejudices and socially unjust situation one after another, we too may sometimes wonder about God's character. So then our minds might wonder into what God could have been thinking in the midst of all Job's challenges.

After over thirty chapters of Divine silence, God answered Job out of a whirlwind. It is interesting that it is out of a storm, chaos God answers. In our lives God often answers in the midst of our chaos, or the current storm in our life. It is typical with the Divine presence of God, to come out of a storm, or natural phenomenon. Ruach the Spirit of God burst on to the scene. Job 38:2-7 says, "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" "Who is this who does not know anything!" The image of God is one that is most human in many ways. God is rather sarcastic with Job as God says, "Gird up your loins like a man, and I will question you, and you shall declare to me." God actually goes on a rant, "Where were you when I laid the foundation for the earth? Tell me if you have understanding. Who determines its measurements—surely you know?" God really gives Job 'what-for.'

God indicates, 'while I was busy creating the earth and running the universe, what have you been doing? Do you know where the light is stored, the snow, hail? Do you know the ordinances of heaven and can you establish their rule on earth?' God goes on and on. When we read further into Chapter 40 God calls Job a "Fault Finder." Job answered God, by telling God that he, understands that he is insignificant, and that he won't say anymore.

This text is interesting in that it is all about us at different times of our lives as much as it is true for the time it was written. In our pain, suffering, and life storm, at the moment that it happens, are so all encompassing that we can't imagine anything else. There are times during storms in our lives that it is like being in the eye of a storm. It is like the scary moment of calm with the storm directly surrounding any way you try to get out. All you can see is storm for as far as your eye can see. God is trying to tell Job that Job, can only see as far as the end of his own problems or the end of his own nose. Job cannot see the big picture. But, it is **GOD** who **CAN** see the big picture!

It is God who in the midst of our pain, and challenges, still loves us despite our short-sightedness. There is always more to everything than what we can see. This story affirms God's care for God's people. In the midst of trying to run the universe, God takes time to be with each of us in our struggles. It is during the struggles that we are often closest to God. God would like for Job, and maybe for us too to understand that God **is** at work in our lives.

When I am with people in the hospital praying with them, I will often have a moment of silence in the midst of the prayer. I can't tell you how many times people have told me, afterwards, that they forget to listen to God, that they are so busy talking during their prayers that they forget to listen to what God might say to them.

I was called in the middle of the night, one week, when I was on call at an area hospital, to come to the bedside of a patient who was dying. The husband was a private man and he told me that he did not attend church but his wife did and that is the reason that I was paged to say a prayer for her. The man realized that their 60 some year marriage, was going to end in a few hours, and his life would be changed forever as the love of his life would pass from this world.

He said that often prayed to God, but today he listened for the first time. He shared that, "God who takes care of everything and creates everything spoke to me today in the midst of our winter storm." With tears in his eyes, he said "it is God's will that I let her go back to God. God has given her to me, and God will take her away, but I will not be left alone by God, thanks be to God." He said that he has only grown in faith, because his wife witnessed to him their whole lives. He claimed to believe in our God, who is powerful enough to run the world, and at the same time care enough about us to be present with us in all things. Thanks be to our God who is also with us in all things. Amen.

#### OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### Offering Prayer

(Psalm 104, Mark 10)

Creator God, you bring rain to the earth and food to your creatures. We thank you for the abundance of our lives and praise you for the opportunity to share what you have so freely given. As we present these gifts, we dedicate our lives to your service, that all may know the blessing of your bounty. Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Are Ye Able"

UMH 530

1 "Are ye able," said the Master,  
"to be crucified with me?"  
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,  
"to the death we follow thee."

#### **Refrain**

Lord, we are able,  
Our spirits are thine.  
Remold them, make us,  
Like thee, divine.  
Thy guiding radiance  
above us shall be  
a beacon to God,  
to love, and loyalty.

2. Are ye able to remember,  
when a thief lifts up his eyes,  
that his pardoned soul is worthy  
of a place in paradise?

**Refrain**

3. Are ye able when the shadows  
close around you with the sod,  
to believe that spirit triumphs  
To commend your soul to God?

**Refrain**

4. Are ye able? Still the Master  
whispers down eternity,  
and heroic spirits answer,  
now as then in Galilee.

**Refrain**

#### BENEDICTION

Bless us with your power, O God,  
the power to serve and make a difference  
in our world.

Bless us with your love, beloved Son,  
the love that heals all wounds  
and brings comfort to the afflicted.

Bless us with your glory, Great Spirit,  
the glory of lives filled with purpose,  
the glory of lives touched by grace.

Go forth to serve and to love.

Go forth as beloved children of God!

#### POSTLUDE

“The Servant Song”