



Johnsville United Methodist Church

Union Bridge, Maryland

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
June 6, 2021 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

There's a Quiet Understanding Tedd Smith

WELCOME

Opening Hymn

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" UMH 126

**1. Sing praise to God
who reigns above,
the God of all creation,**

**the God of power,
the God of love,
the God of our salvation.**

**With healing balm
my soul is filled
and every faithless
murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.**

**3. Thus, all my
toilsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,**

**that earth may hear
the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.**

Be joyful in the Lord,

**my heart,
both soul and body
bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.**

**2. The Lord is never far away,
but through all
grief distressing,**

**an ever present
help and stay,
our peace and
joy and blessing.**

**As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads
the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.**

**4. Let all who name
Christ's holy name
give God all
praise and glory;**

**let all who own
his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!**

**Cast each false idol
from its throne,
for Christ is Lord,
and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory**

Call to Worship: **(Mark 3)**

Leader: Come, mothers and sons, fathers and daughters.

People: We are all welcome as the family of God.

Leader: Become mothers and sons, fathers and daughters.

People: We are knit by Christ into the family of God.

Leader: Come to give thanks; come to sing praise.

People: We are here to worship God together.

Leader: Come, mothers and sons, fathers and daughters.

People: We are all welcome as the family of God.

Opening Prayer **(Mark 3)**

Mother-Father God, uphold us in this time of worship. Brother Christ, gather us in your loving embrace. Wise, fiery Spirit, teach us the mysterious nature of relationships rejected, reclaimed, rewritten, renewed. May we feel in our very bones, Loving One, that we are your children, your family, your beloved. In loving trust, we pray. Amen.

Special Music **A Wilderness Wandering People** Strathdee Solo: Seth Hench

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we often forget that you are the ruler of our lives. Instead, we turn our attention elsewhere. We want what others have. We allow the concerns of the world to weigh us down. We become distracted by the activities around us. We forget to keep our focus on you. Forgive us! Strengthen our faith, that we may see your presence in our lives. Remind us again that you are the Lord of our lives—the One who loves us completely, the One who offers us abundant forgiveness, the One who never leaves our side. Use us to share this good news with others in Jesus name.

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 **He Is Exalted"** TFWS 2070

**He is exalted,
the King is exalted on high;
I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted
and I will praise his name!**

**He is the Lord,
forever his truth shall reign;
heaven and earth
rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted,
the King is exalted on high.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

James:1:2-8

Faith and Wisdom

² My brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; ⁴ and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. ⁶ But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; ^{7, 8} for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Romans 5:1-5

Results of Justification

⁵ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access^[b] to this grace in which we stand; and we^[c] boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we^[d] also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Response to Scriptures:

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "How to Handle Troubles" Rev. Dr. David Highfield

The man hadn't been feeling well so he went to a doctor to get a complete checkup. "I'm afraid I have some bad news," said the doctor. "You're dying and you don't have much time left." "That's terrible," said the man. "How long have I got?" "Ten" the doctor said. "Ten, Doc?" The man asked. "Ten what?" Ten years, ten months, ten weeks? The doctor looked at his watch, shook his head and said, "Ten, nine, eight, seven...." Troubles.

It appears that James is writing to Christians who have been persecuted and who have scattered throughout the world. Many of these believers were probably young in their faith. The letter was written probably in about 61 or 62 A.D. Jesus is only mentioned twice by name in the letter from James who identifies himself as "a servant of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ." His letter is a call to live a life rooted in God. This is teaching directed to the church community, especially to those acquainted with troubles.

Life is full of troubles, the ups and downs of living.

Murphy's Law says it all:

- Nothing is as easy as it looks;
- Everything takes longer than you think;
- If anything can go wrong it will.
- The chance of the bread falling with the peanut butter-and-jelly side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.
- Any tool dropped while repairing a car will roll underneath to the exact center. OR
- Switching to a shorter checkout line at the store means a longer wait.

The troubles of life are like that. They often come with no warning. Life's troubles just show up. Clearly Jesus faced troubles including his encounters with the stubborn, with opponents, with sleeping disciples, and with his arrest, trial and crucifixion. By his teachings, like the Beatitudes, he tried to prepare his disciples for the troubles to come. Some were able to handle them. Some were not able.

How are we to handle our troubles?

1. Be glad when you face troubles. (James 1: 2)

How should we respond to troubles? James first says "Think of various troubles you encounter as occasions for joy". When troubles come, instead of getting mad, get joyful because you know that God can use your trouble to produce something good in your life.

A. Some troubles come through our own actions with consequences. Drinking and driving is an example.

B. Some are Spiritual troubles that come because we are walking with God. (persecution; others make fun.) Or maybe troubles come because we are not walking with God.

C. Then there are mysterious troubles – we don't understand the reason. (illness)

This verse does not mean you have to pretend the TROUBLE is fun. Rather God can use our TROUBLE to produce new growth in our walk with God. We may become better Christians. When trouble comes, you might say, "God, I know You're at work here and I know you didn't send my troubles. I know troubles are a part of human life, even for Christians. But rather than complaining, I'm going to be joyful for what You are going to accomplish in me through this difficult time."

A letter to a pastor came from a man who had lost his job. Though he faced discouragement and uncertainty, he refused to give in to despair. In his letter he wrote, "I feel as low as ever in my life, but I know this is not the final word. Because I believe God has work that God wants me to do, I rejoice and rely upon God's guidance!"

This man had discovered the key to personal strength - the faith that God will work through every event in our lives. Such faith inspired Paul to exclaim, "We rejoice in our sufferings." (Romans 5:3) Don't let bitterness spring up and spoil your walk with Christ.

2. Keep up your faith and endure. (James 1:3-4)

God doesn't send TROUBLES. They come to the good and bad alike. They are a part of living. God, in God's wisdom, and as a part of creation and human freedom, allows the TROUBLES to happen. Often these TROUBLES will test our faith.

You and I have known faithful followers of Jesus who were troubled by family or marriage troubles, economic problems, Pandemic struggles. Some congregations are troubled by lack of member involvement, lack of finances, and lack of a vision for the future.

Sometimes with those troubles come grief, anger, and mistrust. Other people are seeing us go through TROUBLES, and watching how we conduct ourselves, whether we can keep our focus on our faith, whether we can forgive, whether we can endure as the Body of Christ.

TROUBLES can take us either way. We have all known Christian people who, having lost a job, or who are overwhelmed by a wayward child, or who are being beaten down by an addiction, become bitter, isolated, God-hating people. Others have gone through similar TROUBLES and go out and start organizations to heal addicts, retrain workers, or to teach parents Biblical guidelines for raising children. They become stronger. They endure.

3. When you face troubles, pray for wisdom (James 1:5)

How are we to handle troubles? James urges us to ask for God's help. It is God's wisdom that will help us handle the TROUBLES. James suggests that we are to ask in faith and not doubt. You might pray "Lord make sense of this for me. Help me to learn from this trouble and to see how you can use the trouble to teach me and make me a better Christian. Show me how to respond to get the most out of what You want for me right now. God, I need wisdom."

Mature Christians who are experienced in dealing with TROUBLES and who have experienced the joy and endurance, know to keep asking God for more wisdom to handle present TROUBLES and those yet to come. They have learned to

**Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.**

TROUBLES, according to James, do not indicate that God has abandoned those who know and love God. Rather, when TROUBLES come, they may test the depth of our faith and trust in God. TROUBLES remind us that we depend on God. I believe the message of James in

these verses is to have a single-hearted devotion to God, even when TROUBLES come our way. Or look again at Romans 5:3 that says troubles produce endurance, character, and hope. Says the Psalmist in 121, "Where will I find help? It will come from the Lord..."

FOUR GUYS DECIDED to go mountain climbing one weekend. In the middle of the climb, one fella slipped over a cliff, dropped about sixty feet and landed with a thud on the ledge below.

The other three, hoping to rescue him, yelled, "Joe, are you OK?"

"I'm alive ... but I think I broke both my arms!"

"We'll toss a rope down to you and pull you up. Just lie still!" said the three. "Fine," answered Joe.

A couple of minutes after dropping one end of the rope, they started tugging and grunting together, working feverishly to pull their wounded companion to safety. When they had him about three-fourths of the way up, they suddenly remembered he said he had broken BOTH his arms.

"Joe! If you broke both your arms, how in the world are you hanging on?"

Joe responded, "With my TEEEEEEEEEEEEETH...."

Maybe there is someone watching this morning who is just barely hanging on. The TROUBLES of life seem overwhelming and you're ready to toss faith, God, and even the church out of your life. But you've come to virtual worship one more time, hoping for some answers, trying to hang on.

The letter of James can encourage you **first** to be glad in your TROUBLES because God will use them to help produce a better you. **Second**, keep enduring. Have faith. **Third**, pray for wisdom. Above all, ask Jesus to walk with you.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Many thanks for your faithfulness in supporting the ministries of the church.

As an act of worship, please consider keeping current in your tithes and offerings. Even though the church building is closed, we still have financial obligations we need to meet. The mailbox will be checked daily. The address is: Johnsville United Methodist Church, 11106 Green Valley Road, Union Bridge, MD 21791

OFFERTORY

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 (Ps 138, Mark 3)

Loving God, we give you thanks through these gifts we now bring. Your faithful love has given us so much. As we return a portion of those gifts, bless them to your purposes. Send them out in your power, that all the world may know you are Beloved Parent of all, and that we are all part of your family.

***Closing Hymn "My Hope Is Built" UMH 368**

**1. My hope is built
on nothing less
than Jesus' blood
and righteousness.**

**I dare not trust
the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean
on Jesus' name.**

Refrain

**On Christ the solid
rock I stand,
all other ground
is sinking sand;
all other ground
is sinking sand.**

**2. When darkness veils
his lovely face,
I rest on his
unchanging grace.**

**In every high
and stormy gale,
my anchor holds
within the veil.**

Refrain

**On Christ the solid
rock I stand,
all other ground
is sinking sand;
all other ground
is sinking sand.**

**3. His oath, his covenant,
his blood
support me in
the whelming flood.**

**When all around
my soul gives way,
he then is all
my hope and stay.**

Refrain

**On Christ the solid
rock I stand,
all other ground
is sinking sand;
all other ground
is sinking sand.**

**4. When he shall come
with trumpet sound,
O may I then
in him be found!**

**Dressed in his
righteousness alone,
faultless to stand
before the throne!**

Refrain

**On Christ the solid
rock I stand,
all other ground
is sinking sand;
all other ground
is sinking sand.**

* BENEDICTION

Brothers and Sister in Christ as we go forth let us extend grace to all, be faithful to Christ, and do not lose hope.

* POSTLUDE

My Hope is in the Lord WAKEFIELD