

SOJOURNERS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"A safe place to begin. A safe place to begin again."

May 16, 2021

In the morning at 10:00am

Seventh Sunday of EASTER

Together as One



"We are a community of faith called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in the way of Jesus, by including all peoples in all walks and ways of life, in our life of worship and celebration, nurture and growth, love and service."

~ Covenant of Sojourners Congregation

Gathering Music

"Like a Tree"

Words from Psalm 1 and Music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, copyright 2006
Used with permission via CCLI licenses 21003070 and 21003087

Refrain:

Like a tree by the flowing water,
Growing deeper, stretching high,
Like a tree by the flowing water,
Connected to the source of life.

Blessed, blessed are we to abide in God's Word,
Nourished through every season: blessed are we. *Refrain.*

Planted, planted by grace, we are rooted in God's design
Freely, freely abiding, planted by grace. *Refrain.*

Trusting, trusting our lives to the holy way of God,
We will, we will surrender, trusting our lives. *Refrain.*

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Call to Worship

Meghan Wallace

Liturgist: We are gathered in our sheltering-in places to seek the ways of wisdom.

All: *Out loud but muted*

We come as one Body in Christ.

We come to find peace and sing songs of love.

We come to be refreshed by the Spirit.

Come, let us worship.

Invocation

Liturgist: Let us pray:

All: *Out loud, but muted*

Life-giving God, your love and light guide us on the path of courage, compassion, generosity, and grace. Lead us as we seek to follow your transformative love. We desire the love that turns sorrow into joy, and despair into hope. O God, help us to listen as you call us to live as your faithful witnesses. Grant that your light may reflect in us the grace and redemption you desire for the world. In the light, love and life of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Liturgist: Let us confess our sins before God and this host of witnesses.

All: *Out loud, but muted*

Gracious God, we confess that our doubts sometimes stifle our joy. Forgive us when we lack faith in you, and comfort us when our fears outweigh our praise. Forgive us when we lack trust in you, and help us

when we fail to live as your faithful witnesses. Guiding God, forgive us when we are self-consumed and do not take time to serve our neighbors.

In these trying times, Dear God, have mercy on us, and encourage us to embody your love, and to do so unconditionally. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Sojourners, our God, full of compassion, has heard your prayers of confession and has forgiven all your sins.

Thanks be to God!

Collections Cart

Meghan Wallace

This is the time the children usually collect donations of food for the food bank from the congregation. The Food Bank and other organizations still need your donations, perhaps even more now than previously. It may be easier right now to contribute financially to the [Blue Ridge Area Food Bank](#).

SAM Mission Moment

Time with Children

Hutter Family & Innisfree Village

Contemporary Reading

Meghan Wallace

St. Athanasius - *“Even on the cross He did not hide Himself from sight; rather, He made all creation witness to the presence of its Maker.” — St. Athanasius*

Scripture Lesson: John 17:6-19 NRSV

Meghan Wallace

6 “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Liturgist: *This is the Word of God, for the People of God!*

All: *(out loud, but muted)*
Thanks be to God.

Special Music

“Let It Shine”

written and played by Jane and Tom Hansen

The Sermon/Message

Pastor Marvin L. Morgan

Pastor: The Lord be with you
And also with you
Let us pray.

All: *(out loud, but muted)*

Invitation to the Offering

Pastor Morgan

Today, we’ve heard Jesus pray for the disciples to be guided by God.

And so, as the beloved community, I trust we will follow God’s guidance by sharing generously in support of the church and it’s ministries.

This is our opportunity to give, financially, to the family that nurtures us in new growth.
[We urge you to visit [our webpage](#) and click on the **“Donate or Pledge Now”** tab, to present your gifts.]

Dedication Prayer

All: *(out loud, but muted)*

Dear God, we offer our generous gifts as a sign of our gratitude that you created us to care deeply for one another. We pray your blessings upon these gifts, and trust they will show forth our love for you and the world. May they be a witness of your healing love and bring hope to a hurting world. In your many names we pray. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Karen Mann

It is more important than ever to hold one another in prayer. If you are participating in this service at-home, we invite you to light a candle and remember your fellow Sojourners in prayer. If you are watching live from home, we invite you to leave a comment, on the “Chat” screen, with your joys or concerns, now. Please remember that this is a PUBLIC forum and can be seen by anyone.

Pastoral Prayer by Pastor Morgan

Closing Hymn

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

African American spiritual

I’ve got peace like a river (2x)
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain (2x)
I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean (2x)
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.

I’ve got faith like an anchor (2x)
I’ve got faith like an anchor in my soul.

Closing Comments by Pastor Morgan

Benediction

Pastor Morgan

Let us go forth in the world filled with thanksgiving. Let us go forth renewed in spirit, knowing that we belong to God.

All: *Out loud, but muted*

Amen.

Contact Us:

Interim Pastor: Dr. Marvin L. Morgan
mlmorg@bellsouth.net

Faith Formation Director: Kathy Doby
kathy@sojourners-ucc.org

Church Administrator: Lance Allen
churchoffice@sojourners-ucc.org