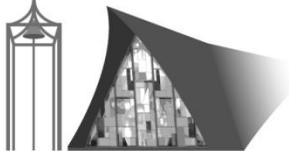


St. JAMES
United Methodist Church



One God, One Church, Many Missions

St. James United Methodist Church

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...**WHO WAS I
THAT I COULD HINDER
GOD?**

ACTS 11:17, NRSV

May 15, 2022

11:00 AM Sanctuary Worship

Welcome to worship today!

Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers. Masks are no longer mandatory inside the building, but recommended. We will continue to use generous spacing, respect the boundaries of others, and rejoice that we may worship together!

Prelude

We invite you to enjoy the prelude as a time of quiet reflection, and to individually prepare your hearts for the worship of God.

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather for worship as children of God.

All: We come to remember who and whose we are.

Leader: We gather for worship to be renewed in our faith.

All: We come with hearts open to receive God's love.

Leader: We gather for worship to catch a vision of what might be.

All: We come ready to change what is.

Leader: We gather for worship in gratitude for all we have been given.

All: With thanksgiving, we lift our voices in songs of praise.

Homileticonline.com, 2022

Sharing Peace

Hymn – Lord, Speak to Me

UMH 463

Congregational Prayer

Precious Lord, hear our weak cries and lead us in your ways. Strengthen our hearts as we feed upon the word that comes from the one Good Shepherd. Keep our eyes so firmly fixed upon Jesus that earthly treasures, no matter how enticing, cannot divert our vision from your tending hand. Train our ears to distinguish your voice, concise and clear, amid the din of conflicting desires and mounting urges that compete for our attention. In a culture which enshrines "self" as the one and only leader, we submit ourselves to your shepherding love and mercy. Amen.

Homileticonline.com, 2022

Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

(To share your joys and concerns, please text them to Elias at 252-578-1090.)

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.

Choir Anthem – *Spirit Song*

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.

Let him fill you heart and satisfy your soul.

O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs, fill your lambs, fill your lambs, fill your lambs.

John Wimber, arr. by Tom Fettke. *Spirit Song* ©1979 and this Arr. © 2019 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing;
Spirit of the Living God ©1935 and this Arr. ©2019 Birdwing Music. This arrangement © 2019 Hope
Publishing Company. CCLI# 1374588

Scripture Lesson – Acts 11: 1-8

The apostles and the brothers and sisters throughout Judea heard that even the Gentiles had welcomed God’s word. When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him. They accused him, “You went into the home of the uncircumcised and ate with them!”

Step-by-step, Peter explained what had happened. “I was in the city of Joppa praying when I had a visionary experience. In my vision, I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered from heaven by its four corners. It came all the way down to me. As I stared at it, wondering what it was, I saw four-legged animals—including wild beasts—as well as reptiles and wild birds. I heard a voice say, ‘Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!’ I responded, ‘Absolutely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ The voice from heaven spoke a second time, ‘Never consider unclean what God has made pure.’ This happened three times, then everything was pulled back into heaven. At that moment three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. The Spirit told me to go with them even though they were Gentiles. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered that man’s house. He reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. ¹⁴ He will tell you how you and your entire household can be saved.’ When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as the Spirit fell on us in the beginning. I remembered the Lord’s words: ‘John

baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God’s way?”

Once the apostles and other believers heard this, they calmed down. They praised God and concluded, “So then God has enabled Gentiles to change their hearts and lives so that they might have new life.”

Message – Who Am I to Stand in the Way?

Hymn – *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

UMH 454

Blessing & Sending Out

Sharing Our Offerings

Out to Serve in the World

What to know this week ...

Meetings this week: UMYF, 4PM today in Montague Hall; Wake County Primary voting, all day Tuesday in Carson Hall; Coffee & Conversation, Wednesday at 11AM, location TBD; Colossian Way, Wednesday at 6:30PM in Room 12; New Hope Strummers, Thursday at 6PM in Music Room; Produce & Backpack Buddies Packing, Saturday at 9AM in Carson Hall

Food Pantry Needs: Please donate your clean plastic grocery bags (not used to bag meat or produce) for our new Backpack Buddies program! There is a bin labeled for these bags in the Welcome Center.

Graduate Sunday is June 5: If you would like to celebrate a 2022 graduation from high school, community college/tech school, college, or graduate program, please email information (grad’s name, parents/church relation, school, degree achieved, next steps/future plans) to Martha Brown (office@stjamesraleigh.org) by **May 23** so it can be shared in the June newsletter and on Graduate Sunday.

The next Garden Workday is Saturday, May 28 at 9AM. Contact Melanie Baiardo with your questions!

The Yard Sale is coming on June 4! Get your donations ready! Donation times are on the poster on the office, sanctuary and Carson Hall doors. Please contact Kay Smallwood (919-414-9630) or Sharon Johnson (919-624-9465) for more information or to volunteer.

New Facebook page: We have migrated to a new public Facebook page as a church! Please visit and friend us at [stjumcraleigh](https://www.facebook.com/stjumcraleigh)!