

**SUMMER CELEBRATION IN SONG & PRAYER**

**with Blessing Moments for the Seasons of our Lives and Graduation**

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

**PRELUDE**                      "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"                      *TFWS 2158*

**WELCOME**                      Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

**INTRODUCTION**              Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, Breath of Summer, with your warm wind and golden rays!

**All: Come and breathe on us that we may see beauty in our world.**

Come, Summer Evenings, with your dancing stars!

**Come and lift our spirits and lead us into restful nights.**

Come, Summer Word of God, with your transforming breath.

**Come and refresh our overworked spirits.**

Come, Source of Growth and Light, with your abiding presence.

**Come and walk with us on green grasses and sandy beaches.**

Come, Long Summer Days, with open hands and open hearts.

**We come with rejoicing. To love and serve wherever God calls us.**

Come, friends of Summer, let us sing our praises and offer our blessings for Summer days and Graduation from COS.

**HYMN**                              "This Is the Day"    *UMH 657*

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God of celebrations and quiet moments, in this confused and fragile world,  
strengthen our faith, increase our love, and let your peace flow through us, that  
we might be an ocean of calm in the storms of Summer. Amen.**

**HYMN**                              "Sweet Hour of Prayer"    *UMH 496, verses 1-2*

**PRAYER**

**God of promise, we seek the wonder of your mystery and place our hope in you.  
We seek the way of peace and wholeness and place our future in your promises.  
We seek to understand the miracle of creation and place our lives in your hands.**

**HYMN**                              "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"    *UMH 452*

**A SUMMER BLESSING**

Leader: Blessed are you, season of Summer,  
of long days and short nights

You pour forth light shining on the earth and calling forth growth.

**All: Blessed are you, warmth of Summer,  
with your generous gift of heat.**

**Your warm breath encourages all things to grow  
and reach for the Son.**

Blessed are you, sacrament of Summer,  
nature's green season, sweet echo of Spring.  
You shine in living color as you renew the earth  
and your gifts appear on our tables  
changing them into altars.

**Blessed are you, light of Summer,  
host of a star that shines with passion.  
You minister to us and feed our hunger for beauty.**

Blessed are you, gift of Summer,  
season of roots that reach for water.  
Even through cracks in sidewalks  
the song of new life can be heard.

**HYMN** "Take My Life, and Let it Be" *UMH 399*

### **PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE**

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 9:10-19

**MESSAGE** "A Disciple" **Rev. Glenn Rowley**  
*Rev Glenn Rowley a retired UM elder, received his M.Div. from Iliff School of  
Theology. Previously, he served as the Director of the Mission and Global  
Justice office of the VA Conference, and as a missionary with GBGM over 24  
years serving as the Director of Mission Personnel Training and working in  
diverse mission settings in Mozambique, Senegal, and Mexico*

**SONG** "The Summons" *TFWS 2130, verses 1-3*

### **CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION**

**GREETING** Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples (on behalf of Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park)

#### **Responsive Reading**

*Spiritual Formation Director:* Beloved in Christ, the Church is the Body of Christ, and we are God's holy people.

**All: We are received into the Church at baptism, and called to proclaim the mighty acts of God in the name of Jesus Christ, and to serve him in the Church and the world.**

God sent us a Savior and called the apostles to witness to his words and deeds. Through him, the church was formed. Now God has called you into ministry.

**We honor this tradition and celebrate our call to ministry, as servants of the Church.**

In all things, God's grace is sufficient to strengthen you, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**By the same Spirit, God has called each of us. It is with joy that we honor this graduate and celebrate his completion of the Course of Study.**

May God increase in you the gifts of grace for your life and ministry.

### **Presentation of Graduate**

*Spiritual Director:* Who are presented for graduation from the Course of Study?

*COS Coordinator:* I present this candidate for graduation: **Mike Mitchell.**

Let us offer our blessings and prayers for the graduate. I invite everyone to offer your prayers and blessings for him in the chat.

### **Blessing & Anointing**

*Director (recorded):* In the name of Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we celebrate your graduation from the Course of Study. We commend you to your ministry as a Local Pastor and pledge our continued prayers.

*Spiritual Director:* May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in all things you may do God's will in service to the church, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*COS Coordinator:* Gracious God, we thank you for calling faithful servants to be Local Pastors in your Church. We humbly place this graduate in your care. Give him courage, patience, and vision, and bless him with caring communities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Spiritual Director:* And now, remember your call. Preach the Good News. Shepherd the flock of Christ. And in all things, give God the glory, now and always -

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare on behalf of our director that you have graduated from the Course of Study.

**GRADUATION HYMN**

“Here I Am, Lord”

UMH 593, verses 1-2

### **A COMMUNITY SHARING FOR SUMMER DAYS**

Parts adapted from “Leaderless Eucharist,” by Annie Heppenstall, Wild Goose Publications/[www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com), 2006. [*This alternative to a communion service is adapted from a “leaderless eucharist” service. It is intended as a shared experience and follows the structure of traditional worship. The elements may be any type of bread or crackers and any type of drink, to represent Jesus’ presence at all our meals. There is no one prayer or particular sacred act that can only be led by ordained clergy. All words, all actions, are intended to be shared among the congregation. For Zoom Worship, bread and drink are made ready in our own space.*]

Let us share this time together in community -

We are many people with one God,  
we are brothers and sisters together,  
shoulder to shoulder with all creation.  
God has welcomed each of us just as we are.  
We give thanks that we are part of God’s community,  
included in God’s love,  
blessed by the Holy Spirit,  
welcomed by Jesus Christ into the church,  
invited to draw close and to share in the gift of God's eternal love.

**ALL: Jesus told his followers to remember him by sharing bread and wine.**

**We remember his life, death and resurrection.**

We remember the Last Supper which Jesus shared with his followers, on the night before he died. And as they ate, he took a loaf of bread and gave thanks. He broke it, and gave the bread to them, saying, "Take this and remember me."

*(lift the bread, break and eat)*

**ALL: The bread of life is given for us.**

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank. He said that the wine was his blood, sealing the bond of forgiveness between God and humanity.

*(lift the cup and drink)*

**ALL: God's love is poured out for us.**

Spirit of God be around us and within us,  
remind us of your presence with us and feed our spiritual hunger.  
God of us all, your name is blessed,  
may your kingdom come,  
may your Holy Spirit overcome us and guide us.  
Son of God give us each day enough bread for tomorrow,  
and forgive us our sins as we forgive others.  
Spare us from temptation and keep us away from evil. **AMEN.**

Let us give thanks,

**God among us, thank you for giving us enough bread and water to share with all.  
Ask much of us, expect much from us,  
Encourage many through us,  
So we may live as citizens of earth and heaven. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

UMH 133

**BLESSING**

May the God of hope go with you.

May the words of blessing at baptisms and graduations lift you up.

May you never lose sight of goodness in the world.

And may God's love go with you at all times and in all seasons of your life.

**POSTLUDE**

"I Saw the Light / I'll Fly Away"

**RESOURCES:**

Adapted from Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies by Iona Community (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2017).