

IN CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY and GRADUATION

PRELUDE **BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES**

WELCOME Grace Wallace, COS Coordinator

INTRODUCTION Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COS Spiritual Formation Director

OPENING WORDS

On Labor Day we honor our work, physical and mental, paid and unpaid,
joyous and heartbreaking.
We give thanks for the gift of work.
Our work can build our society and give meaning to life.
Our work can damage our society and tear it down.
We join together to create work that blesses us, all people, and the planet.
This Labor Day and all Labor Days to come,
may all our work serve humanity and creation.

LIGHTING A CANDLE

In recognition of Labor Day,
we light this flame to honor all work, big and small,
in gratitude for all the labors that support our world,
and for all those who boldly continue the work of justice, equity, and peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who labor and are weighed down with responsibility and worry.
All: We come, because the load we carry is heavier than we can bear alone.
Come, all you who seek to work and worship, play and serve for a meaningful world.
We gather for renewal and support, for help in making choices and carrying out our commitments.
Come, sinner and saint, with your failures and successes, your sorrows and joys.
We respond to the Spirit's leading and open ourselves to receive God's grace.

OPENING PRAYER

God of power and mercy,
only with your help
can we offer you our service and praise.
May we live the faith we speak
and be faithful in the work we do.
Give us grace to understand that our lives are bound together,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

TOGETHER WE SERVE

TFWS 2175

PRAYER TO FOLLOW CHRIST

O Lord Jesus,
gentle and humble of heart,
full of compassion and maker of peace,
you lived in poverty and worked for the cause of justice.
May we receive the word of the Gospel joyfully,
and live by your example as citizens of your kingdom on earth and in heaven.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 10:1-11

MESSAGE “Eat and Get Out” Rev. Dr. Brian White

Dr. Brian K. White received his M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and his D.Min. in Congregational Leadership from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. A United Methodist Elder, he serves St. Mark’s UMC in the Indiana conference.

HYMN WHERE HE LEADS ME I WILL FOLLOW UMH 338

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION

OPENING WORDS Rev Dr Joon-Sik Park, COSSO Director

Director: Beloved in Christ, the Church is the Body of Christ, and we are God’s holy people. 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 with The United Methodist Church.

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

Director: Who is presented for graduation from the Course of Study?

Coordinator: I present **MELENE WILSEY** (Michigan) for graduation.

Director: Now let us offer our blessings for the graduate:

(blessing the graduate)

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 in The United Methodist Church and pledge our continued prayers.

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

Director: I invite everyone to offer your prayers and blessings for our graduate. You may type your prayers in the chat box so we can share them with her later:

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 her courage, patience, and vision, and bless her with caring communities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Director: 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 that you have graduated from the Course of Study.

(all unmute mics and cheer for the graduate)

HYMN

HERE I AM, LORD

UMH 593

HOLY COMMUNION FOR LABOR DAY

For social distance/personal sanctuary at home or in an outdoor place, please prepare your elements as desired; some congregations prefer bringing their own elements to the church rather than passing commonly prepared ones; blessed or unblessed, God is present at all our meals

Invitation

On Zoom, Google Meet, Livestream
Drive-in and Pew-space,
the first Exodus released the oppressed workers
to bring them to a new and safe place.
This is a new Exodus time,
a time to give attention to
domestic workers, migrant workers,
food service folks, childcare and homecare workers,
to those in mandatory overtime,
those jobless and waiting for work,
and those who work in dangerous conditions.
For we hear the voice of God saying –
I will give you the finest wheat and sweetest honey. *(Deuteronomy 8:7-9)*

Prayer of Consecration

In the Bread we eat, we honor farmers and grocery workers.
In the Cup we drink, we honor those who pick fruit,
and those who make it into juice.
In the Bread and Cup, we honor those who write and teach
the Good News of the new covenant.

(Each person laying hands on their bread and cup)

Holy One, this is the sacrament we share, because others have worked and prepared it for us to use. We pray that your Spirit of life and love, of tenderness and power, will rest upon every bread and every cup, may they feed our inmost needs and pour forth a grace that can change the world. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Amen.

Words of Remembering

Friends, we remember a Passover in Jerusalem
when Jesus was in an upper room.

He soaked and scrubbed the tired feet of others,
and explained that he would fill our emptiness with love.
He reminded us that the bread of welcome
on anyone's table is blessed as a holy sacrament
on everyone's table.
He sends us out to fill every cup in the world around us.

Sharing of the Elements

The bread on our tables is blessed and broken;
open to all, it is holy food, manna in our wilderness.

Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

(all eat the bread)

The cup on our tables is blessed and shared,
overflowing with tears and joy.

Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

(all drink the cup)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O Holy One, we give you thanks for this blessing of bread as sweet as honey and juice that flows with hope; food and drink from the labor of hands and tables blessed with enough for all. We receive this simple meal as a reminder of your holy presence in the holy distancing of virtual worship. Send us out to be your church and to change your world one act of peace at a time, one word of joy at a time. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord fill us with hope in our work and in our play;
look on us with grace;
watch over us with love;
and surround us with peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE

Worship & Song 3016/Zion Still Sings 13

LABOR DAY RESOURCES

<https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/labor-day>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/having-words-with-jesus/thirteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c/thirteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-liturgical-resources>

<https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/08/28/12857/>