

**CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION & HOLY COMMUNION**

(with prayers for All Saints Day on November 1)

*Please take a communion cup as you enter.*

**PRELUDE**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH 57 vv. 1-5 & 7**

*(All stand as able while Graduates process into the Centrum and on Zoom)*

**GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The risen Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

*(all are seated)*

**REMEMBERING ALL THE SAINTS**

As we come together, we pause to Light a candle to remember All Saints known to us and known only to God:

We light a light to remember.

We light a light for hope.

We light a light as a prayer beyond words.

We light a light for peace

*(pause to light candle)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of Light and Source of all hope,  
we give thanks for All the Saints on earth and in heaven  
who remind us of your love.

We give thanks for those wise, wonderful, and ordinary people  
who have altered the paths of our lives.

**Through our living may your light shine,  
and through our prayers may your love be known.**

**SCRIPTURE            Ecclesiasticus 2:1-5 (NJB)**

My child, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal.

Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes.

Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days.

Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient, since gold is tested in the fire, and the chosen in the furnace of humiliation.

**MESSAGE**                    **"Preparing for an Ordeal"**  
**Dr. Chuck Gutenson**

*Dr. Chuck Gutenson received an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Philosophical Theology from Southern Methodist University. He is a church consultant, and previously served 10 years at Asbury Seminary, most recently as professor of Theology and Philosophy.*

**HYMN**                    "Together We Serve"

TFWS 2175, vv. 1-2

**CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION**

**Greeting**

**Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park, Director of COSSO**

**Presentation of Graduates**

*Director:* The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

*Director:* Let us pray together:

**Eternal God, by your grace you have brought us together in your Church, which is the body of Christ. Grant your continuing grace to all who are called to leadership in your Church, that they may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill their ministries; and grant that we your people may follow where you lead, and serve you faithfully in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

*COS Coordinator:* I present these candidates for graduation:

**John Armstrong, Dwayne Brown, Dave Burriss, Dean Durant,  
Christine Fodrea, Stephen Luzader, Rhonda Osterman, and Dave Warner**

*Director:* We now offer our blessings and prayers for the graduates. I invite those on Zoom to offer your prayers and blessings in the chat.

**Blessing & Anointing**     *(each candidate is recognized)*

*Director:* 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.

*Coordinator:* Receive this gift as a sign of your completion of the Course of Study.

**Prayer**

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

*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 that you have graduated from the Course of Study.

***Those on Zoom unmute and everyone cheers with gusto.***

**GRADUATION HYMN**

“Here I Am, Lord”

UMH 593, vv. 1 & 3

### **THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION FOR ALL SAINTS DAY**

*(from UMC Book of Worship, p 74)*

*Distribution - because of Covid protocols we are using communion cups in the pews.  
Rev. Maples has specific bread for those with bean allergies (all bread is gluten free);  
those on Zoom may partake as you are comfortable.*

### **INVITATION**

For those who walk with others,  
For those who lead the way,  
For those who touch and linger with the living,  
For those in the shadows and behind the door,  
**This is the invitation: all are welcome at this table.**

### **CONFESSION and PARDON**

Forgive us, Lord, for our failure to live with integrity.  
**We want to sing your praises, O God.**  
**We want to show with our lives our love for you.**  
**But we forget. Forgive us, Lord.**  
Be assured, God cares for us and has already forgiven what needs to be forgiven.

### **THE THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You are God of our ancestors and all generations on earth and in heaven, and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### **BLESSING**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the light of Christ in this world and beyond. Renew our communion with all your saints, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever..

**Amen.**

### **BREAKING THE BREAD**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*Break and eat.*

We lift this cup to share in the sacrifice of Christ.

*Lift cup then drink.*

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Baskets are passed for empty cups*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of All the Saints, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of heaven. Strengthen us in our life together, that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **HYMN**

"Gather Us In"

TFWS 2236, vv. 1 & 4

### **BLESSING**

Go in communion with All the Saints,  
and be the light of Christ.

And in all things give God the glory,  
now and always,

Amen.

### **POSTLUDE**