

COS Spiritual Formation

March 13, 2021

AN EASTER VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF
GRADUATION & COMMUNION

NOTE: bring bread and juice, noise makers for graduation

**please join on mute in reading bold print*

PRELUDE **“Easter Song”** *by Keith Green, sung by Men Unified in Christ*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbcryQFqWp0>

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

***OPENING WORDS**

Easter glory fills the sky

Easter light covers the earth

Now the Son brings his promise

By this act of Easter giving

Sin and death are put to flight

Hope and life invade our living

We are a new creation by his light.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, forgive us for our sins against your community:

We have not provided for the poor or the immigrant in our land. We have not paid fair wages to those who labor. We have made life difficult for the blind, deaf, and those with special needs. We have made poor judgments about right and wrong. We have done harm to the environment.

Holy Jesus, forgive our sins against our neighbors:

We have not been generous. We have not prayed for our neighbors' needs. We have slandered friends and enemies alike. We have loved ourselves more than you.

Holy Spirit, thank you for your forgiveness. Help us passover our sin, that we may be part of making the world a place where justice flows and love reigns.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PARDON

We belong to Christ.

Christ lives in us, in who we are, and in who we will be.

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

We belong to Christ. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray together,

O God, we come before you today and ask your grace on our worship, as we reflect on the blessings of being your servants. Help us to listen and to guide those who will hear the gifts of the gospel. As we journey in these days of uncertainty, we seek to trust you more, and to remind each other you are with us always. Bless us now as we hear your Word and offer blessings to our graduates. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the risen Christ. Amen.

SONG “God of Grace and God of Glory” UMH 577
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9rWrw3XBO8>

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:11-18

REFLECTION “Some Good News”
REV. DR. JEFFREY JAYNES

MTSO Professor in the Warner Chair of Church History; COSSO faculty member
Ph.D., Ohio State University; M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary; B.A., California State University, Fresno
Areas of Expertise: Religious History of the Middle Ages and the Reformation Era, Early Modern Cartography and Maps, History of Christian Spirituality.

SONG “He Lives” UMH 310
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qF6aBDS3drA>

GRADUATION & BLESSING OF GRADUATES

REFLECTION MOMENTS

OUR GRADUATES:

Sue Acker, Upper New York Conference

Peter Dittman, Susquehanna Conference

Karen Hollingsworth, East Ohio Conference

Steve Place, Michigan Conference (in absentia)

REV. DR. JOON-SIK PARK, Director of COSSO

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

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 is presented for graduation?

Coordinator: **Sue Acker, Peter Dittman, and Karen Hollingsworth** are presented for graduation from the Course of Study.

Director: Now let us offer them our blessings and prayers:

(blessing each 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. *(pause for next graduate)*

(service continues after blessing each graduate)

COS Coordinator:

Our congratulations and prayers go with you. Your certificate and gift for graduation will be sent to you.

Director: I invite everyone to offer your prayers and blessings for our graduates -

(you may type your prayers in Chat)

COS Coordinator:

Let us pray together,

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.

(everyone unmutes themselves and cheers with gusto)

GRADUATION SONG “Here I Am, Lord” (v 1 & 3)

UMH 593

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-Qvgx0guSI>

recorded & played by Pastor Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director COSSO

HOLY COMMUNION

(virtual remembrance of communion in Covid times;

adapted from Fire and Bread by Ruth Burgess)

Invitation

Come to the table where we remember the living Christ,
the One who offers us bread broken for our journey

and wine poured out for our tears.

We share in this remembrance, where loss finds comfort in promise, and despair is transformed into hope.

Whoever you are, whatever you bring, hear the risen Christ call your name.

Prayer of thanksgiving

God of Easter glory, we bring you our praise and our thanks.

You take the pain of our Good Fridays, and transform our helplessness into new beginnings.

And so, with your disciples, with all who have wept and been comforted, with all who have mourned and found hope, we sing your praises in the mystery of our faith:

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

So, God of loss and love, we give you thanks for these ordinary gifts of your amazing grace – broken bread and juice poured out.

(lift bread and juice)

May they speak to us of every day made holy, of oppression turned to freedom and justice, of new life throughout the world. Even as we cling to what is past, may we let go and answer joyfully to the calling of our names – to live the risen life in the world you have created in your love for us.

(all eat the bread and drink the juice)

Amen.

Post-communion prayer

Easter God, you have met us in bread and wine, and surprised us with your joy. Send us out into the world with alleluias ringing in our hearts, to share your love and praise with the world. Amen.

BLESSING

Even as we believe what we may not fully understand,
we trust that mystery we call faith.

And when that morning comes,

when we are united with all the saints, gathered around one table,

may we lift our voices as one to God of the Beloved Community,

singing holy, holy, holy,

God of Easter glory, now and for ever. Amen.

(please remain or leave the Zoom session as needed)

POSTLUDE

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

arr. Paul Manz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suGHV2ws46c>