

"Come Away"
A Celebration of Graduation & Holy Communion

NOTE: Please bring bread and juice, and noise makers for graduation.

PRELUDE **"Oh Freedom"** *SOZ #102 and TFWS #2193*

WELCOME & Announcements - Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator
INTRODUCTION – Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation

CALL TO WORSHIP

From fears that paralyze us;

Free us, O Lord.

From illness that strangles us;

Heal us, O Lord.

From sorrows that weigh us down;

Calm us, O Lord.

From busyness that distracts;

Quiet us, O Lord.

PRAYER

Lord, we do not pray for easy lives, we pray to be stronger people.

**We do not pray for peace, we pray for courage to always be the voice of justice,
that we may stand together holding onto your promises of freedom.**

Bless us on the journey of faith in times of trouble and times of joy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE **Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

REFLECTION **"Even if only for a moment," Rev. Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace**
*Dr. Knowles Wallace is Emerita Professor of Worship & Music at MTSO and received
her MTS from Candler School of Theology and her PhD from Garrett Evangelical
Theological Seminary at Northwestern University.*

HYMN **"Come and Find the Quiet Center"** *TFWS #2128*

GRADUATION & BLESSING OF GRADUATES

REFLECTION MOMENTS

Introduction by Rebeka Maples

FROM SOME OF OUR GRADUATES:

Kima Cunningham, West Ohio

Robert "Bob" Fuchs, Michigan

George Price, Susquehanna

Terry Stone, West Virginia

Lori Douglas Weaver, East Ohio

ALSO GRADUATING:

Sheri Kernik, West Virginia

Nathaniel "Nate" Starkey, Michigan

FROM OUR DIRECTOR, Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park, Director of COSSO

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?

Coordinator: Kima Cunningham, Bob Fuchs, Sheri Kernik, George Price, Nate Starkey, Terry Stone, and Lori Douglas Weaver 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.

(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 HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

UMH #593

HOLY COMMUNION: A Service in Ordinary Time

Our communion service is adapted from a liturgy by Thom M. Shuman in The Soft Petals of Grace (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Pub., 2016). Let us honor this sacrament even in our distance one from another. God is able to hear us and heal us all ways. Thanks be to God!

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God in Community be with you,
And also with you.

Shaped in the divine image, let us open ourselves to the Creator.
With grace-filled hearts, we come to the Redeemer's table.

Called to be God's people, let us offer our praises.
We rejoice from many places and offer our praises.

At the beginning, God of creation,
you painted the skies on the blank canvas of chaos.
You sang creation's song and filled all the earth.
The soft petals of grace clapped their hands when you clothed us in glory,
but we found sin and death to be a more comfortable fit.
Prophets came teaching and calling us to faithful lives,
but we insisted on our own way.
So, you sent Jesus, to heal us and make us whole again.
Now, with grace, love and unity,
with all the saints of every time and place, we lift our songs of thanksgiving:
How majestic is your name in all the earth, O God.
All creation greets you with glad songs of praise.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of love.

Holy are you, God-over-us,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, God-with-us.
He took off heaven's glory and came with love and mercy to free us.
As we remember his life, death and resurrection,
as we celebrate his re-creating power,
we speak of that mystery called faith:
Christ died. Christ was raised.
Christ will come to crown us with glory and honor.

Send your Spirit to flow over
these gifts of the bread and the cup.
Shine your light and goodness on those who gather around your table.
As we break the Bread of life, may we become living hope to our world.

(break bread and eat)

As we drink from the Cup of grace, may we hold your love in our hearts, so we might be
poured out to those who thirst for peace in their lives.

(lift cup and drink)

And when your dreams which began at creation are realized and we gather around your
table, draw us together with saints and sinners, to sing your praises forever and ever.

Amen.

Post-communion prayer

O God, we give you thanks for all you offer us in this sacred remembrance. May our lives
show signs that new life is possible, that the gospel is believable, and that peace is our way
in the world. This we pray through your mercy and love. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH & BENEDICTION:

God, who created you in God's image, sends you forth:

**We go to be the presence of our Creator
to everyone we meet along the way.**

Jesus, who has redeemed you, empowers you:

We go to bring healing and hope to all the world.

The Holy Spirit, who calls you to be God's people, goes with you:

**we go to tear down the walls which divide us,
and to build lives of trust with all God's people.**

And now,

may the peace of the roaring waves,
the peace of the silent mountains,
and the deep peace of the God of Peace,
be with you forever and ever. Amen.

*Our worship now ends; please remain to listen to the music or leave the Zoom session as
needed.*

POSTLUDE

"If You're Happy"