

**"Finding Our Way Back: Re-opening Doors of Possibility"
Worship in In-between Time (with Communion)**

(Note: please have bread and juice available)

PRELUDE **"This is the Day the Lord Has Made"** **UMH 657**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

INTRODUCTION – Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation

OPENING WORDS

Leader: A reading from Psalm 84:2

My heart longs, my tears fall, my heart and soul sing for joy to the living God.

Leader: Please join me in these opening words:

My heart longs for a place to call home,
waiting, afraid to go this way or that.

**All: My tears have nowhere to fall, they fall on my open hands,
my mouth opens but nothing comes out.**

Where, then, is home,
in the sowing of the seed, in the reaping of the harvest?
**Can our hearts find joy again,
in the waiting, in the longing for a place to call home?**

Now, I am singing for joy,
tears falling onto praying hands, into an open heart.

Prayer Response

**All: Even in my despair, I will not lose hope.
O Heart of my heart, hear my prayer.**

HYMN **"I've Got Peace Like a River"** **TFWS 2145**

SCRIPTURE **Psalm 130:1-6**

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;
² Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

A REFLECTION PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God who weeps with those who weep,
God of many names, Yahweh and unspoken God,
Bless this moment, a sacrament of life,

All: Stop our worry and rewind us to a new beginning.

Created we are by you, yet we have not always honored you.
Filled with your Spirit's breath, the promise of new life has not been enough

Make us one with you and your creation.

Our ways tear down what you build up.

Forgive us, if you will, if we are worthy of your forgiveness still,

For our sins are many, and our carelessness follows us.

We know the sun shines and the Spirit renews,
Through Covid days and times that take our breath away.

We come to you and lay our burdens down,

Break through with forgiveness and help us re-open the doors that we have closed.

Prayer Response

Leader: Know that God forgives, and God redeems.

All: We know that God blesses and God forgives. Thanks be to God.

HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table"

TFWS 2268 (to tune Beach Spring)

HOLY COMMUNION

(adapted from A Procession of Prayers: Meditations and Prayers from around the World, comp. John Carden, WCC, and Cassell, London, UK, 1998; and Justice and Local Church Ministries (2020), Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH, permission granted for use in services of worship or church education.

Prayers for the Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Gracious and loving God, remembering that many of us are gathered virtually and at many tables, sharing this bread and cup in a virtual way,

may we remember that this action at your table is the ultimate symbol of our unity.

our tables are set and all of God's children are welcome.

Our tables are open and all of God's children receive grace, love, and hope.

ALL: This welcome, this bounty, this experience of Christ's saving love are celebrated here at this table, where we are gathered in your name.

O Savior Christ, in whose way of life lies the secret of all life, and the hopes of all people, we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.

We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age,
but let its problems challenge us,
its discoveries encourage us, its injustices anger us,
and the doors that open to new possibilities inspire us,
for your Kingdom's sake.

***(lifting bread and cup): Bless this cup and this bread,
that they may nourish us for the journey ahead. Amen.***

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)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, God, for being present with us in this virtual meal – may this bread and cup renew us, strengthen us, and encourage us for the days ahead. Amen.

HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God”

UMH 102

Sending Forth & Benediction

Leader: God, who goes before us and opens all doors, sends you forth:

**All: Grace and peace be ours in abundance,
through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. (2 Peter 1:2)**

May the blessings of God,
the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit
go with you as you open doors to new possibilities.

Amen.

(Our service now ends, please stay and listen to the music or leave as needed.)

POSTLUDE

“My Life Flows On”

TFWS 2212