"Finding Our Way Back: Re-discovering Community" Worship in In-between Time with Communion

PRELUDE "Bind Us Together" TFWS 2226

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

INTRODUCTION – Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation

OPENING WORDS

Leader: God of mystery, we greet you.

God of holy birth, we honor you.

All: God of migrant parents, we know you.

God of pain and suffering, have mercy on us.

God of the poor and hungry, we see you. God of all who seek you, come and meet us. Come and bring us into community with you.

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY

Leader: Holy and gracious God, you fill all things with a love and hope that we cannot comprehend. Thank you for leading us into this In-between Time, where more of reality is being unmasked and more doors are being opened. We pray that you will take away our tendency for cynicism, denial, fear and despair.

All: Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, humility, and care for one another. Help us place our hope in your eternal presence and love.

Listen to our hearts as we pray for the healing of our suffering world, and for all we lift to you... (please share your prayers by clicking "unmute" and speaking them, or by typing them in the chat box).

We offer these prayers in your holy name. Amen.

HYMN "Gather Us In" TFWS 2236

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-2,15-21

REFLECTION "Not about You, Not about Me, It's about...," Rev. Dr. William H. Wilson

Dr. Wilson received his M.Th. from Perkins & D.Min. from Drew. He's a retired elder in the WV Conf & was Assistant to the Bishop from 2004-2013 after serving

many churches.

HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" UMH 618

HOLY COMMUNION A Service of Holy Communion for In-Between Time

A READING FROM Psalm 103:1: Blessings from my soul for all that is, blessings in God's holy name.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Thanks for what is and was, and yet to be,

for the sowing of the seed,

for the grain and baking of the bread,

for the fruit brought from the vine.

All: Thanks for the blessing of bread and wine.

Holy are you, God who brings together,

and blessed is Jesus Christ, God who is and was, and always will be.

He took off heaven's glory and came with love and mercy to live among us.

As we remember his life, death and resurrection,

as we celebrate his re-creating power, we recall the mystery of our faith:

Christ died. Christ was raised. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit to flow over these gifts of bread and 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 for 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 of all times and places, 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 love and mercy. Amen.

UMH 666

HYMN "Shalom to You"

SENDING FORTH

Leader: As we end this two-week term, may we go in peace to love God and our neighbor.

All: May we go with the love of Christ to serve God and our neighbor.

And may the Spirit encourage us wherever we go – until we meet again. Amen.

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

POSTLUDE "God Be with You till We Meet Again" UMH 672