

# COSSO Spiritual Formation Friday Gathering

September 13, 2024

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### REBUILD, RENEW, RECONNECT

*This liturgy engages people of all ages in our connection in the body of Christ. By using Lego pieces as a way of understanding our "connection" in the church, we focus on ways to rebuild, renew and reconnect with hope in our connection to the church and each other.*  
*NOTE: Each person picks up several Lego pieces upon entering the church.*



## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Leader: We were built to connect.  
**All: We are created for unity!**  
Leader: God created all things and called them good.  
**All: We are created for community!**  
Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God entered into relationship with us.  
**All: We are created for relationship!**  
Leader: We rejoice in our unity with God's creation.  
**All: Thanks be to God, for our connection in community!**

## PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY

**Jesus Christ, you who lived in a human body,**  
**Call us to community,**  
**Remind us that in you we are one,**  
**Awake in us a respect for one another,**  
**And celebrate with us our diversity,**  
**May it be so now and forever. Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

**"COME CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING"**

**UMH 158**

## OUR STORY OF CONNECTION

We are connected to the Earth:  
The wind in the treetops and the sound of the sea as it reaches the shore.  
**We are connected to each other:**  
**The laughter of a child, the light in an older person's eyes.**  
We are connected in music:  
Words leading to prayer, poetry in heart and mind.  
**We are connected in the grain:**  
**Wheat growing and dough rising, for the sharing of bread.**

We are connected in animals and pets:  
The chasing of sticks and the buzzing of bees.

**We are connected in the light:**

**The beauty of the morning sunrise, glory in the evening sunset.**

We are connected in God:

In everyday sacraments of love.

Our story is a story of connection and hope, and yet we have much to learn.

### **SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 4:25-32**

<sup>25</sup>Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup>“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup>Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

<sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

**HYMN**

**“O CHURCH OF GOD, UNITED”**

**UMH 547**

### **WORDS & PRAYER FOR CONNECTION**

*(prayer while holding Lego pieces)*

God of all connections, we come today from many different places, with many concerns. Calm our hearts and minds that we may be present to you and each other in our learning.

**Show us how to care for ourselves and one another.**

We pray for people close to us and far away, friends and family, neighbors and strangers. May our connection in you lead us to practice peace in our daily lives.

**May your love restore our hope in Community.**

We pray for ourselves and our nation during the upcoming election – help us know that what affects one of us affects all of us, help us restore hope in your community.

**May your love lead us to rebuild, renew, and reconnect to you and each other.**

In communion with you and one another, we pray for churches and religions around the world. Help us become your community, one word of kindness, one act of compassion at a time. **Amen.**

*(MUSIC plays while connecting Legos on the table)*

## UNISON PRAYER OF HOPE

God of all hope,  
may your new community of hope be realized on earth as in heaven.  
Breathe your life-giving breath upon us and on the churches we serve.  
Release us from our doubts and inspire our dreams.  
May these Legos remind us of our connection in you,  
for you have shown us the way  
"to be kind and compassionate to one another."  
May it be so now and to the end of time. Amen.

HYMN            "THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE"            TFWS 2223

## BENEDICTION

As we leave this sacred space,  
May we continue to learn how to live out our connection  
as One with God and each other.  
Go knowing that we are One in Christ! **Amen!**

*Alternative action, building a Paper Chain: Enclose long, thin strips of paper in a variety of colors in worship bulletins. Before or during the pastoral prayer, encourage congregants to write names and concerns on the strips of paper. Ask children to collect these strips of paper and have them make a paper chain (while listening to the sermon or in church school) and encircle the sanctuary with it during the last hymn for the benediction.*

### Sources:

Coracle, The magazine of the Iona Community, Issue 1/2024, Glasgow, UK.

Iona Community, Wild Goose big book of liturgies, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2017; [www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com))

United Methodevations, "Lego Church," <https://doroteos2.com/2013/04/22/lego-church/>.