

CELEBRATION OF COSSO GRADUATION & HOLY COMMUNION

"God Knows Our Name"

*(Select prayers for 13th Sunday after Pentecost, Sept 7, 2025, Year C)*

**PRELUDE** "Hello, My Name Is" by Matthew West

**WELCOME** Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

**INTRODUCTION** Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Wherever you go, from the mountaintop to the valley, God knows you.

**Wherever we go, God knows our name.**

Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay down again, God knows you.

**Whatever we do, God knows our name.**

However you live, from your thoughts to your actions, God knows you.

**However we live, God knows our name.**

We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

**We gather to worship God who loves us and knows our name!**

*by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2025.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

All-knowing God,

We gather together with praise and thanksgiving for You,  
and for all that You have done for us.

You know us better than we know ourselves—

all our thoughts and actions—

and yet You love us.

No matter where we go or what we do,

Your love encircles us—gently leading, guiding and blessing.

We praise You for Your love and Your presence in our lives.

**May Your Spirit move in our hearts as we worship together—**

**examine us, challenge us with Your Word,**

**and guide us on to paths that lead to life.**

**For we are Your people, called by Your name. Amen.**

*Posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/opening-prayer-psalm-139.html>*

**SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 139:1-13**

**SERMON "A Mother Bunny and God"**

**Rev. Robin Dillon**

Rev. Dillon received her M.Div. from MTSO. An elder in the East Ohio Conference, she is the Lead Pastor at Lakewood UMC and serves as Dean of the East-West Ohio Clergy Licensing School.

**HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

**UMH 139**

**CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION**

**GREETING**

COSCO Director, Rev Dr Joon-Sik Park

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**Director:** Beloved in Christ, the Church is the Body of Christ, and we are God's holy people, called by name and guided by the Holy Spirit.

**All: We are received into the Church at baptism, and called to proclaim the mighty acts of God in the name of Jesus Christ, to serve him in the Church and the world.**

**Director:** God sent us a Savior and called the apostles to witness to his words and deeds. Through him, the Church was formed. Now God has called you into ministry with The United Methodist Church.

**All: We honor this tradition and celebrate our call to ministry, as servants of the Church, as pastors, preachers, teachers, and bearers of God's word.**

**Director:** In all things, God's grace is sufficient to strengthen you, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: By the same Spirit, God has called each of us. We stand with joy to honor these graduates, and celebrate their completion of the Course of Study.**

**Director:** May God increase in you the gifts of grace for your life and ministry.

**PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES**

**Director:** Who is presented for graduation from the Course of Study?

**COS Coordinator:** I present these candidates for graduation:

Mary Barrett	(Michigan Conference)
Monica Calvert	(Western Pennsylvania Conference)
Lawrence French	(Michigan Conference)
Samuel "Sam" Gordy	(Michigan Conference)
Bryan Moore	(West Ohio Conference)
Jason Weirich	(Susquehanna Conference)

**BLESSING** *(each candidate receives a blessing)*

**Director:** 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 you and guide you, that in all things you may do God's will in service to the church, in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **PRAYER**

*We offer our virtual blessings as a sign of our connection in the body of Christ; please send your blessings in the Chat box which will be sent to the graduates.*

**COS Coordinator:** Our congratulations and prayers go with you all. Your certificates will be sent to you. 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.

*Please unmute to cheer as we congratulate our graduates.*

## **GRADUATION HYMN "Here I Am, Lord"**

**UMH 593**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor.  
We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation often seem impossible.  
We know that nothing is impossible with You.  
We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness.  
Help us, to live in peace with others,  
to seek reconciliation, healing and forgiveness,  
and to live by the message of peace  
from Your Son who came and lived among us.  
May we walk in his ways. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**For nothing is impossible with God.  
There is no place you can go, nowhere you can run,  
where God cannot find you.  
There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
You are forgiven. You are loved.  
Go and live with the love of God. Amen.**

*by Rev. Mindi on Rev-o-lution, <http://rev-o-lution.org/>, re-posted on re:Worship blog <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/02/prayer-of-confession-loving-others.html>.*

## HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

*(adapted from Service of Word and Table I, BOW)*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The pastor stands behind the Lord's table.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

*The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
You spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day  
when justice shall roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,  
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
*The pastor may lower hands.*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### PRAYING PSALM 139:13-18

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know  
very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the  
depths of the earth.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet  
existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread, or touch the bread, or lift the bread.*  
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the cup, or touch the cup, or lift the cup.*  
When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*The pastor may raise hands.*  
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

#### **BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread and cup.*  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

*The pastor may raise hands.*  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

#### **BREAKING THE BREAD**

*The pastor breaks the bread, in silence or while saying:*  
Because there is one loaf,  
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.  
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

*The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:*  
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

### **GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words:*

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

### **PRAYER**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

May you go from this place with blessing and assurance  
that God, Creator of the universe; Jesus Christ, Savior of the world;  
and the Holy Spirit, knows your name.  
Amen.

*by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2024.*

**POSTLUDE     "I Have Called You By Your Name"**

by Dan Damon