

**COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**February 8, 2025**

**PRELUDE: "Dona Nobis Pacem"**

**UMH 376**

**WELCOME/Announcements**

Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

**"SOUNDS OF PEACE"  
A Service for Offering Hope**

*This is a reflective service for offering hope through uncertain times.*

*Please have small bell or bell tone on hand for ringing after prayers.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

**RING BELL**

**HYMN "For the Healing of the Nations"**

**UMH 428**

**OPENING RESPONSES**

Leader: O God, who called all life into being,

**ALL: THE EARTH, SEA AND SKY ARE YOURS.**

Leader: Your presence is all around us,

**ALL: EVERY ATOM IS FULL OF YOUR ENERGY.**

Leader: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,

**ALL: WITH HER WE YEARN FOR JUSTICE TO BE DONE,**

Leader: For creation to be freed from suffering,

**ALL: FOR THE HUNGRY TO BE FED,**

Leader: For captives to be released,

**ALL: FOR YOUR PEACE TO COME ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.**

**RING BELL**

**RESPONSIVE READING (based on Psalm 107)**

Leader: O give thanks to God, whose steadfast love endures forever!

**ALL: We have been gathered in from east and west, from north and south.**

Leader: Some have wandered, finding no safety, hungry and thirsty.

**ALL: In our trouble we cried out to God .**

Leader: Let us thank God whose love extends to all.

**ALL: For God satisfies the thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things. O give thanks to God, whose steadfast love endures forever!**

**RING BELL**

**INVOCATION**

Holy God, creator and sustainer,  
we gather this day to give thanks for your love,  
and to remember your call to create  
communities that strive for justice and peace.

With Christ as our guide, we seek to grow into your image:  
generous, compassionate, welcoming.

Baptized into Christ, we seek to love all creation,  
with Christ's inclusive love that sees beyond difference,  
and extends the hand of peace to strangers.

**Send your Spirit among us  
and inspire us that in all things we may work for peace,  
for we pray in the name of the One  
who is called the Prince of Peace, Amen.**

***RING BELL***

### **MEET US HERE, LORD**

Merciful God, we remember events of the past:  
of wars and endless bombing;  
We are mindful of current events around the world  
and endless struggles for peace.

**Meet us here, Lord.**

***RING BELL***

O God, like a father who teaches his child to walk,  
like a mother who feeds and loves her children,  
You desire safety and healing for all people and nations.  
You call us into this work of peacemaking and care,  
even when we follow other paths.

**Meet us here, Lord, teach us how to bring your peace.**

***RING BELL***

Ever patient God, you open ways to a new future and ways that make for peace.  
Thank you, that through Christ peace has come near to us.  
We believe the Good News that Christ is the peace that heals.

**Meet us here, Lord, teach us how to be your peace.**

***RING BELL***

### **A READING FROM AMOS 5:7,10-24 (select verses)**

***RING BELL***

**HYMN                    "Let there be Peace on Earth"**

***UMH 431***

### **CALL TO RENEWAL**

The God who has blessed our lives calls us to store our riches with God.  
In thanksgiving and in faithfulness, let us renew our calling as peace-makers and give  
thanks for the gifts God has given us:

**O God of all creation  
who has come to us in Jesus,  
lead us in your way of love  
and fill us with your Spirit.**

**You have called us  
to bring good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
to bring sight to the blind  
and set free the oppressed.  
So may your new creation come and your will be done.  
(Moment of silence for renewal...)  
RING BELL**

**HYMN            "It Is Well with My Soul"**

*UMH 377*

**Prayers of Peace and Dedication**

Let us lift up the prayers we carry in our hearts and all that causes us to lose a sense of hope as we come together.

After each petition, you may ring your bell as a sign that God hears our prayers; we will close by praying together ...

God of peace, we know the world needs our prayers and you need our help to make peace a way of life on earth as it is in heaven, and so

Reader 1: Hear our prayers for our world. *(Bell)*

Reader 2: Hear our prayers for all who are strangers in a foreign land, for migrants, immigrants and refugees. *(Bell)*

Reader 3: Hear our prayers for families separated and torn apart by violence and strife. *(Bell)*

1: Hear our prayers for children everywhere that they may know love and safety, and live without fear. *(Bell)*

2: Hear our prayers for those who suffer from natural disasters and their search for home. *(Bell)*

3: Hear our prayers for peace in our country and the world, and for our leaders. *(Bell)*

1: Hear our prayers for an end to divisions that separate people from each other. *(Bell)*

2: Hear our prayers for our churches and for an end to the divisions among us. *(Bell)*

3: Hear us, O God, as we pray for ourselves that we may hear anew the call you have placed on our hearts. *(Bell)*

**Loving and merciful God,  
we rededicate our lives to you that we may use the gifts you have given us to build  
your kingdom.  
For all the ways in which you have blessed our lives,  
we offer ourselves in service to you,  
the source of all hope and peace.  
With our gifts we commit ourselves to work for peace in this world.**

**As United Methodists we remember and reaffirm our baptismal vow "to resist evil in all its forms," especially in these uncertain times.  
Continue to pour your blessings on us that we might be used in ministries of caring, reconciliation, and justice.  
Bring the people of this nation together,  
that we may listen to each other  
and move closer to realizing your peace.  
Amen.**

***RING BELL***

**BENEDICTION**

May God write a message on our hearts,  
bless and direct us, then send us out  
renewed in hope and dedicated to serve the God of all peace.  
Go and be the peace you wish for the world.  
**Amen.**

***Bell Tone***

**SONG "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"**

*TFWS 2171*

**SOME RESOURCES**

"A Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace" from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book* (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2001).  
Additional prayers and various service ideas in *UMC Book of Worship*.