

**A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF  
REFORMATION, GRADUATION & COMMUNION**

**PRELUDE**            **"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"**

**WELCOME**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Note: Bold responses are read by all on mute.*

**INVITATION**

**LEADER:** Christ invites us here together,

**ALL:** **The love of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us.**

Love has brought us here today,

**Not our love but God's love is with us.**

God's love has brought us here today,

**We love because God first loved us.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray together,

**Great Lover of the world, you have given your love to us in many different ways. We bless you for giving us your Church, and establishing in our hearts a love for you. By your Spirit inspire us, that our faith may grow closer to you and our love grow stronger with you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SONG**            **"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"**            **v 1-2 UMH 110**

**SCRIPTURE READING**            **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that

means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**REFLECTION**      *"Reformation as Re-formation"*

**REV. DR. SARAH LANCASTER**, received her M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology and her Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University. She is Professor in the Werner Chair of Theology at MTSO, an elder in the North Texas Annual Conference, and teaches Theological Heritage in Course of Study.

**GRADUATION & BLESSING OF GRADUATES**

**REFLECTION MOMENTS**

*From OUR GRADUATES:*

*Brad Bunn (in absentia)*

*Jeri Johnson, East Ohio*

*Cynthia Midlick, East Ohio*

*Penny Parkin, Michigan*

*Robert Smith, East Ohio*

*Patricia Wycuff, West Ohio*

*From REV. DR. JOON-SIK PARK, Director of COSSO*

*Director:* The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

*Director:* Let us pray together:

**Eternal God, by your grace you have brought us together in your Church, which is the body of Christ. Grant your continuing grace to all who are called to leadership in your Church, that they may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill their ministries; and grant that we your people may follow where you lead, and serve you faithfully in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Director:* Who is presented for graduation?

*Coordinator:* Brad Bunn, Jeri Johnson, Cynthia Midlick, Penny Parkin, Robert Smith, and Patricia Wycuff are presented for graduation from the Course of Study.

*Director:* Let us offer them our blessings and prayers:

*(blessing each graduate)*

**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 and guide you, that in all things you may do God's will in service to the church, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *(Pause for next graduate)*

*(service continues after blessing the graduates)*

*COS Coordinator:*

Our congratulations and prayers go with you. Your certificate and gift for graduation will be sent to you.

*Director:* I invite everyone to offer your prayers and blessings for our graduates. *(you may type your prayers in Chat)*

*COS Coordinator:*

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.

*(everyone unmutes themselves and cheers with gusto)*

**GRADUATION SONG "Here I Am, Lord" (v 1 & 3)**

**UMH 593**

*recorded & played by Pastor Lori Douglas Weaver*

### **HOLY COMMUNION (Pro Tempore)**

*(virtual remembrance of communion is offered temporarily in Covid times)*

#### **Prayer of Preparation**

To God be the glory: great things God has done!

To prepare ourselves to partake of this holy meal, let us pray:

Healing God, we come before you

broken, yet seeking wholeness; isolated, yet seeking community;

overwhelmed, yet seeking hope; ashamed, yet seeking grace:

**ALL: We yearn for the healing you promise.**

God of Justice, we come before you

selfish, yet seeking a generous heart;

arrogant, yet seeking humility;

responsible, yet seeking forgiveness:

**We yearn for the justice you promise.**

God of Peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance;  
worried, yet seeking peace; angry, yet seeking forgiveness:  
**We yearn for the peace you promise.**  
Knowing that through God's love all things are made new,  
we come to the table of communion,  
to be recreated through the mystery of the bread and cup,  
and to be re-formed in our faith and commitment.  
**God of Love, we submit ourselves to your reforming Spirit.**  
**This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

**SONG**                      **Change My Heart, Oh God**                      **TFWS 2152**

***A Thanksgiving Prayer***

Loving and gracious God of all times and places,  
we give thanks and blessings to you,  
for the diversity of life and the beauty of the earth.  
Called into one body, your Church,  
we who are many praise you with one voice,

**SONG**                      **Doxology**    **UMH 95**

Loving and gracious God, you surround us with abundant love,  
we give all our thanks and blessings to you.  
**We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus.**  
**With Christ as our light, may we be a light to others.**  
**Amen.**

***A Blessing***

*(Lift the bread)*

Loving God, we thank you for our daily bread, may it connect us more closely with  
you and people around the world.

**Bless us in our life together.**

*(Lift the cup)*

Loving God, we thank you for the living water, may your love flow through us and  
connect us with you and all creation.

**Bless us in our life together.**

May the grace of communion bring us into union with you, your people and your  
Church, united in the One Body of Christ.

### ***A Sharing***

*(Break the Bread)* The bread of life is shared with you.

**The bread of life is shared with you.**

*(each one eats the bread)*

*(Lift the Cup)* The cup of forgiveness is shared with you.

**The cup of forgiveness is shared with you.**

*(each one drinks the cup)*

### ***A Prayer of communion***

God of all good things, renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and with people of all nations.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,

all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

We have been given another day

in which to love God, who is easy to love,

and by serving our neighbors, who are not always easy to love.

**We have strength to love and serve, not by our power,  
but by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the love of God,  
through whom all things are possible.**

Go on your way rejoicing and loving what God loves,

and the blessing of the Living God will always be yours.

**Thanks be to God, Amen!**

*(please remain or leave the Zoom session as needed)*

**POSTLUDE            "We Are the Church"**

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