

“COME TO THE TABLE”

WELCOME/announcements

CALL TO THE TABLE

LEADER: Let go. Let go of holding yourself to impossible standards.
Let go of ignoring your beauty.
Let go of certainty.
Let go of fear, and perfection and busyness.
You are more than that.

Let us pray:

**ALL: Let me cultivate grace. God delights in me.
Let me cultivate yes to see beauty in myself and others.
Let me cultivate only this certainty: I am loved.
Let me cultivate creativity that births new ways of living.
God, let our churches and communities grow in love toward you,
like a sunflower reaches for the sky.
And with your saints through the ages,
let us be rooted in your evergreen love,
that it might grow deep and wide in each of us and in all of us.
We long to be a church that is not afraid to let go
and let love lead us to stay at the table.**

***OPENING SONG**

“We Are Called”

TFWS 2172

TABLE TALK

(leader comes to the table)

A TABLE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Listening #1. As you listen, what word or phrase seems to “jump out” at you or call to you?

Listening #2. What thoughts, feelings or memories does this scripture evoke in you today?
What specific situation in your life relates to this reading today?

Listening #3. What is God’s personal invitation to you from the scripture?
What action(s) might you take based on your hearing of this scripture today?
How might God be calling you? Write or share your response,
or write a prayer of thanks.

A TABLE PRAYER

(Bringing our prayers to the table)

***SONG**

“The Summons”

TFWS 2130

A SENDING FORTH FOR TABLE LEADERS

LEADER: Let go. Let go of clever, cunning deceptions.

Let go of false intentions.

Let go of certainty.

Let go of power over.

You are more than that.

Let us pray:

ALL: Let me cultivate this certainty: God is just.

Let me grow the courage to name injustice.

Let me know the power of love, open and fragile.

Let me understand resistance that births new paths in ministry.

Let me cultivate this truth: God believes in me.

God, let our churches and communities be life giving places where friends feel like family, differences feel like love, and music opens us to dream new dreams, until prayer rises like a fragrant offering, and hope lives among us. Amen.

TABLE BLESSING

Sources: Prayers adapted from: Liturgy by Sarah Are/a sanctified art LLC/sanctified art.org, “Cultivating Letting Go: Words for Worship” (2018).

SATURDAY MORNING PRAYERS

GREETING

A TEEN'S PRAYER OF PRAISE

Leader: You are so amazing, God. You made our world and the moon, the sun, the stars and the planets.

People: You are so amazing, God.

L: You made rivers and plants, animals and insects.

P: You are so amazing, God.

L: You made every person different and special.

P: You are so amazing, God.

L: You sent Jesus to help us to know how to live.

P: You are so amazing, God. You are really cool! Amen. (by Caitlin)

***SONG "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"** (from TFWS 2193)

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

***CHILD'S PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

ALL: Thank you, God, for today.

Thank you for all the things I'll do, the people I will meet.

Thank you for the things I will learn, the thoughts I'll think.

Thank you for the food I will eat.

Thank you for loving me. Amen.

(by Michaela)

***SONG "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord"** **UMH 352**

BLESSING

**SATURDAY CELEBRATION
"COME TO THE TABLE"**

WELCOME/ announcements

TABLE TALK

PRAYER OF BREAD AND JUSTICE

(UMH 639)

Leader: O God, just as the disciples heard Christ's words of promise and began to eat the bread and drink the wine around a table in remembrance and in the joy of hope, grant that we may hear your words in all the moments of our lives:

**ALL: Coffee, on the table in the morning,
A friendly call to the dinner table,
Shouts of children at picnic tables,
A song sung at the communion table,
Anxiety, while lying on operating tables.**

Leader: May all these moments speak to us of your mercy, and tell us that life is good. And may the invitation to community make us remember those who have not been included:

**ALL: Those who are cut off from life, in the bread absent from the table,
In refugee camps where there are no dinner tables,
In the sadness of children, hungry and alone,
In songs that call everyone to the table, but not everyone is welcome.**

Leader: May we learn to live in the saving grace of Christ when we participate in the suffering of others and make room at our tables.

Amen.

***OPENING SONG "All Who Hunger"**

TFWS 2126

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 55:1-9*

CHOIR "Come, Share the Lord"

(from TFWS 2269)

(Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director)

AN INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(from "A Short Liturgy" by Bay Allen, COS student)

***HYMN "Freedom is Coming"**

TFWS 2192

A TRIBUTE *(honoring Terri Litchfield)*

***HYMN "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"**

UMH 557

TERRI LITCHFIELD

*OSU Master Gardener,
COS Coordinator,
BS, Anderson U.,
MS, Mathematical
Statistics, Ball State U.*

The Course of Study Coordinator position has been a wonderful place for me. More than a job, of course, it's been a calling. Some of you heard in March that I am retiring from COS and MTSO and this is my last weekend as COS Coordinator. In addition to helping my parents relocate from Connecticut to Ohio, I look forward to having time to devote to other organizations and activities. But I will miss COS so much!



(photo of Terri's garden, 2018)

In 2007 when Randy Litchfield came home and mentioned a dire need for someone to cover COS because of the sudden resignation of the person hired to replace the outgoing COS Coordinator, Jessica Spillman, I wanted to help. I had created the COS database for Jessica a few years prior to this so I thought I could handle the data side of things. I volunteered to cover while MTSO's Dean went through the hiring process again. Well, as they say, the rest is history! This quickly became the hardest job I'd ever done. I was comfortable with the database side of things but needed to learn EVERYTHING else about COS. I was overwhelmed at the sight of a blinking light on the phone because I knew I wouldn't know the answer to whatever the question was. I was a bundle of nerves that first weekend of the 2007 Fall COS term. As an extreme introvert, COS sessions were a challenge!! Do you know what made it work? You did! In other words, COS students, faculty, and staff made it work. (And of course, it was by God's grace.) Everyone was patient and forgiving, and over the next few weeks and months, I caught on. Course of Study became a place where I could hone my skills, even as it stretched me in so many positive ways. I loved being able to help students navigate through Course of Study and I will miss greeting you as you arrive on campus.

I will miss working with others in the MTSO community. Their work with COS is behind the scenes and often goes unacknowledged. I'd like to thank the following colleagues for their help and friendship over these years: Diane (Business Office); Tammy (Housing Director) and Leslie; Keith, B.R. and Chase (Maintenance); Chefs James and Brian, and Daejah (Dining Hall); Shannon and Matthew (IT). I also want to thank Deans past and present: John Kampen, Randy Litchfield, Lisa Withrow and Valerie Bridgeman, and President Rundell. I'm grateful for their responsiveness and support. Molly (Financial Aid) and Tammey Wilden (Field Education) have been a great support and good friends although their responsibilities don't overlap with COS.

It has been an honor to serve on the COS staff. Dr. Park and Dr. Maples bring exceptional leadership to the program. (The worship services are a balm for my soul.) COS Student Assistants have helped with the workload, and I'm grateful that Shin Sung has been able to extend his service. His calm presence and willingness to assist in any capacity are so helpful! Grace Wallace, while being the newest member of the team, has become indispensable. She worked with COS briefly a few years ago, so she is already familiar with, and comfortable using, the database. She has far exceeded expectations. As a team, the COS staff has worked hard AND had fun along the way.

I am thankful. Peace be with you.

Terri