

GOD BLESS US! The Beloved Community

PRELUDE – “Sweet Hour of Prayer” (instrumental)

<https://youtu.be/18MEV0fT1gI>

Music selections: Pastor Lori Douglas Weaver, COSSO Music Director

WELCOME – Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

INTRODUCTION – Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the garden of the soul, a seed is planted.

ALL: Listen, God is speaking.

In the garden of life, a new creation grows.

Listen, God is still speaking.

In the garden, messages come.

Listen, God is always speaking.

OPENING PRAYER

ALL: Sower of all good seeds, giver of life and breath and all created things,

Come into our lives. Shower us with love for your creation.

Come and fill our cups with hope, bless us with life for another day,

that we may become believers and sowers of seeds

for growing your Beloved Community. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Acts 17:22-28

Reflection “FEELING OUR WAY”

Rev Dr Diane Lobody, MTSO Professor of Church History in the Nippert Endowed Chair of Church History and Wesleyan Studies; and COS faculty member.

SONG “IMMORTAL INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”

UMH #103

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfu1dqKCGd8> (words by Walter Chalmers Smith, Welsh melody, sung at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints)

A BLESSING FOR GRADUATION

WORDS OF REFLECTION

***From our graduate: KAREN JENSEN-KINNEY, Michigan Conference
(with PowerPoint)***

From our director: REV. DR. JOON-SIK PARK

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

ALL: And also with you.

Director: Let us pray together:

ALL: 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: KAREN JENSEN-KINNEY is presented for graduation from the Course of Study.

Director: Let us offer Karen our blessings and prayers:

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.

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 graduate by unmuting your microphone or typing in the Chat box...

(brief pause, you may unmute or type your prayer 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 this graduate in your care. Give her courage, patience, and vision, and bless her 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)

SONG

“PASS IT ON” (chosen by Karen Kinney for graduation) **UMH #572**
<https://youtu.be/QuYFJvMk13c> (by Kurt Kaiser, sung by OLPS Cantate
Domino Choir 2014)

COMMUNION FOR COMMUNITY

*(adapted from Thom M. Shuman, The Soft Petals of Grace, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose, 2016;
because of our distance from one another, the communion service does not include all parts of
consecrating the elements, but reminds us of our connection to one another in holy community)*

A GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May God in community be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Called to be God’s beloved community, let us offer our praises.

ALL: With grace-filled hearts, we remember God’s table.

At the beginning, God of Creation,
you painted sunrises and sunsets on the blank canvas of chaos.
You sang creation’s cantata,
while nature danced into being.
When you would have clothed us in glory,
we found sin and death to be a more comfortable fit.
Prophets came with warnings calling us to faithful living,
but we wanted control of our lives.
So, you sent Jesus, to heal our brokenness.
You overlooked our ignorance, and through him you gave us forgiveness
and the assurance of new life.
Now, with grace, love and unity,
with faithful companions and teachers,
and with all the saints of every time and place,
we lift our prayers of thanksgiving to you:
(pause for silent prayer)

Send your Spirit to flow over us as we remember you in the gifts of bread and drink,
bring light and goodness to us as we gather together even in our distance.

As we break our bread, we become living hope for a world in chaos.

As we drink from our cup, we hold your kindness and peace
that we might be poured out to those who thirst for you.

May we be blessed in the building of your beloved community.

**ALL: And when we gather around your table,
with saints and sinners, disciples and deniers,
may we find ourselves closer to you than we ever thought we might be. Amen.**

In Communion

As one Beloved Community with you, we remember the bread you provide. (*all eat*)

As one Body, we drink to remember your love poured out for us. (*all drink*)

Prayer

God of all hope, thank you for living in us and loving us.

May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all creation. Help us become the Beloved Community that shares each other's burdens and speaks love wherever there is hate.

Listen to our hearts that we may be for you the healing of our world. Amen.

SONG

"HERE I AM, LORD" (v 1&3)

UMH #593

https://youtu.be/L_HnkYAwjy4 (by Dan Schutte, played and recorded by Pastor Lori Douglas Weaver, COS Music Director)

SENDING & BENEDICTION

God, who created us, sends us out:

ALL: WE GO TO REFLECT THE PRESENCE OF OUR CREATOR.

Jesus, who has redeemed us, goes with us:

WE GO TO BRING HEALING AND HOPE TO OUR BROKEN WORLD.

The Holy Spirit, who calls us to be God's people, blesses us:

WE GO TO BRING JOY AND OFFER GOD'S LOVE.

God bless you and keep you,

God's love shine upon you,

God keep you and give you peace.

AMEN.

POSTLUDE

"Irish Blessing – May the road rise up to meet you"

https://youtu.be/2mWaoGn_jTY (played by Arlene Faith)