

COSSO Spiritual Formation

Friday, August 7, 2020

GOD BLESS THE SEEDS OF YESTERDAY
“Renewing the Image of God in Us and All Creation”
& Remembering John R. Wallace

PRELUDE “**PARABLE OF THE SOWER**” (animation)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9IOhGPrRvY>

RodTheNey at www.max7.org; Jesús Calderón www.jesuscalderon.com for the music

WELCOME – *Rev Dr Joon-Sik Park, COSSO Director*

INTRODUCTION – *Rev Dr Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation*

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Genesis 1:26-2:3)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was without form, and a wind from God swept over the waters.

God made all living creatures on land and sea.

And God blessed all that God made.

God planted seeds for love and peace to grow.

God looked at everything that was made and said that it was good,

and God rested when all the work of creation was done.

PRAYER

Open the heavens, O God, and pour out your blessings on us.

Open your Word, Lord Jesus, and fill us with the blessing of your love.

Open your breath, Holy Spirit, and blow the seeds of change on us.

Open your heart, O God, and we will receive every joy you have for us.

Creator of all good things, bless us now as we worship you

that we might open our lives to the power of your everlasting love,

and be a blessing for sowing seeds of your peace.

Amen.

FROM THE SEEDS OF YESTERDAY:

“Renewing the Image of God in Us and All Creation”
& Remembering Rev Dr John Wallace

Some words of reflection from Rev Dr Rebeka Maples

SCRIPTURE *Colossians 3:8-15*

8 But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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.

SONG

“O SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD”

#539 UMH

Words by Henry Tweedy (Acts 2), trad. English melody, arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams
https://youtu.be/KzmLjE-il_M **Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church (Singapore)**

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

(If you have prayers to share, please type them in the Chat box or unmute your mic and share them aloud.)

A REMEMBRANCE: TASTE & SEE

Let us share in this remembrance of communion:

Remember, God is with you,
AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Prayer:

Let us pray,

Loving God, we thank you for your nurturing presence within and among us.

You fill our hungry souls and quench our thirst for more of you.

Grant that we may focus on the seeds of your Word for strength and guidance.

Jesus told many stories in the time he spent with the disciples, trying to get them to listen to God and not their fears:

“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:34)

He told stories to give them courage:

“A farmer went out to sow his seed... some fell on the path and the birds ate it up, some fell on rocky ground, some fell among thorns, some fell on good soil and yielded a hundred times more than was sown. Whoever has ears to hear, let them listen.” (Luke 8:5-8)

And he told them stories of God’s love and forgiveness:

“While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

(Matthew 26:26-28)

In communion:

Consider how the Word of God has nourished you... *(pause)*

Now, even in our distance let us read these words together and share in this remembrance of communion, as we remember God’s love:

“I am the bread of life. They who come to me will never be hungry.”

(John 6:35) (each one eats a piece of bread)

And let us say these words, and remember the cup of forgiveness:

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.”

(John 7:37-38) (each one takes a drink)

Prayer after communion

Loving God,
thank you for the blessing of your presence within and among us:
**You plant seeds in our lives,
and you give us the strength to sow seeds in our ministry.
As you fill our hunger and quench our thirst,
grant that we may continue to be fed by your Word
and sow seeds of your love in all that we do and say.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

SONG

“HYMN OF PROMISE”

#707 UMH

by Natalie Sleeth

sing-along hymn with DisciplesNet Singers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDpByzZqeQ4>

BLESSING

A blessing from words of John Lewis,
as we go with memories of John Wallace:
“walk with the wind, brothers and sisters,
and let the spirit of peace
and the power of everlasting love be your guide.”

References:

Jacqueline Syrup Bergan and S. Marie Schwan, Taste and See, Winnoa, MN: Saint Mary’s Press, 1996.

John van de Laar, “The Seed of Your Kingdom,” Sacredise 2008, www.sacredise.com.

John R. Lewis, “Together you can redeem the soul of our nation,” NY Times, July 30, 2020.