

BLESSINGS & GRADUATION

WELCOME

Updates/announcements – Grace Wallace

Greeting and Intro to worship – Rev Dr Rebeka Maples

Introduction - Blessings

HYMN *“O God Our Help in Ages Past” (v 1,2,6)*

UMH 117

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We are called to a holy calling,
to sing to the One who made all things good, beautiful and true,
and shared it all with us.

ALL: Called to be faithful stewards, we come to worship.

LEADER: We are called to be disciples,
to follow the One who guides us
in every moment and every place
as servants and leaders.

ALL: Called to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, we come together.

LEADER: We are called to proclaim the Gospel,
to be taught by the Spirit,
who moves in and through us as we serve the world.

ALL: Called to proclaim the Good News of Easter, we come to learn.

UNISON PRAYER

God of resurrection,

**You have rolled the stone away,
and we are still looking for you.**

**You have shown us the dawn of a new creation,
and we are longing for your blessing.**

**Let all our celebrations and worship renew our lives,
that we may live and become all that you have called us to be,
through the risen Christ we pray.**

Amen.

SCRIPTURE **Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSV)**

DEVOTION **“In Grateful Remembrance”**

REV. TOM SNYDER, retired Elder in East Ohio Conference, he has served many congregations for 36 years, and teaches with COSSO and MTSO

SPECIAL MUSIC **“El Shaddai”**

**offered by Bay Allen, COSSO student, Western Pennsylvania Conference
(find Bay’s music on iTunes, Amazon digital, Spotify)**

GRADUATION BLESSING

WORDS OF REFLECTION

*from our graduate, William (Bill) Locke, Western Pennsylvania Conference
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, we pray, 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: Bill Locke is presented for graduation from the Course of Study.

Director: Let us offer Bill our blessings and prayers:

Bill, 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:

Bill, 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.

COS Coordinator:

And now, let us pray together,

Gracious God, we thank you for calling faithful servants to be Local Pastors in your Church. We humbly place Bill in your care. Give him courage, patience, and vision, and bless him 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.

(unmuted, everyone cheers with gusto)

GRADUATION SONG

"Here I Am, Lord" (v 1)

UMH 593

BLESSING

May our time together renew us

and deepen the call that God has placed on our hearts.

May we allow the fullness of God to shine forth from us.

**And may God fulfil within us the divine promise of God's kingdom,
in these corona times and always, Amen.**