

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION AND EUCHARIST

In the Season of the Harvest Moon

Native American Ministries Sunday is a special giving Sunday on April 14, 2024;

Native American Awareness Sunday is September 19, 2024;

our heritage is celebrated on any Sunday.

"Gathering into God's Circle"

**PRELUDE
WELCOME**

Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director COSSO

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Neeake, NACOS graduation)

Everything that matters is a circle. The earth, the sky, the seasons, the trees, human hugs-- all these are circles. God yearns for us to be connected to all that God loves in the circle. God invites us to live in the balance of the circle. Come now, into the circle as we sing -

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"**

UMH 280

(all stand as graduates process into the Centrum)

GREETING

from BOW 425

Every part of this earth is sacred.

Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore.

Teach your children the earth is our mother.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.

This we know, the earth does not belong to us.

We belong to the earth.

Our God is the same God, whose love is equal for all.

We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it.

Let us give thanks for the web and circle that connect us.

Thanks be to God, the God of all.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

from UMH 329

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world,

and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze.

We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty.

Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset.

Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes,

so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame.

Amen.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Job 23:1-5; Mark 10:17-22

MESSAGE "And Now What..."

Rev. Dr. Paul Kim

Rev Dr Kim received his MDiv & ThM from Princeton Seminary and PhD from Claremont School of Theology. A Presbyterian elder, he teaches Hebrew Bible at MTSO, and Bible IV (421) in COSSO.

HYMN

"Hymn of Promise"

UMH 707

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION

GREETING

COSSO Director, Rev Dr Joon-Sik Park

RESPONSIVE READING

Director: Beloved in Christ, the Church is the Body of Christ, and we are God's holy people, called by name and guided by the Holy Spirit.

All: We are received into the Church at baptism, and called to proclaim the mighty acts of God in the name of Jesus Christ, to serve him in the Church and the world.

Director: God sent us a Savior and called the apostles to witness to his words and deeds. Through him, the Church was formed. Now God has called you into ministry with The United Methodist Church.

All: We honor this tradition and celebrate our call to ministry, as servants of the Church, as pastors, preachers, teachers, and bearers of God's word.

Director: In all things, God's grace is sufficient to strengthen you, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: By the same Spirit, God has called each of us. We stand with joy to honor these graduates, and celebrate their completion of the Course of Study.

Director: May God increase in you the gifts of grace for your life and ministry.

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Director: Who is presented for graduation from the Course of Study?

COS Coordinator: I present these candidates for graduation:

Timothy (Tim) Auer (Western Pennsylvania)

Floyd Barnhart (Western Pennsylvania)

Joseph (Joe) Carney (East Ohio)

Robert (Bob) Demyanovich (Michigan)

Carol Freeland (Michigan)

Fred Higgins (East Ohio)

Phillip Nunley (Kentucky)

Keith Smallenbarger (West Ohio)

Elizabeth (Beth) Taylor (Susquehanna)

Carl (Bo) Terrell, Sr (West Virginia)

Matt Whisenhunt (East Ohio)

Tricia Williams (Indiana)

BLESSING & ANOINTING *(each candidate kneels or stands for the blessing)*

Director: 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 you and guide you, that in all things you may do God's will in service to the church, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Presentation by COS Coordinator: Receive this as a sign of your completion of the Course of Study.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND WELCOME

All are invited forward to lay hands on the graduates or touch the person near you as a sign of our connection in the body of Christ. Those on Zoom may share their blessings in the chat.

COS Coordinator: 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.

***GRADUATION HYMN**

"Here I Am, Lord"

UMH 593

INVITATION

(Neeake, NACOS Graduation)

Come to the table the Lord has set for us. Come to your place in the circle. Here you are home because God has welcomed you. Join with your sisters and brothers and know God's peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

(from BOW 488)

We confess that the circle of love is repeatedly broken because of our sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.

Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Glory to God! Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day or the gift of food, BOW 76;

NACOS graduation service; FNV New Testament; Terry M. Wildman, Ojibwe/Yaqui)

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP *(all is made ready)*

PRAYER OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator of heaven and earth.

As the seasons come and go, you bring forth bread from the earth and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image and made us stewards of your world. Earth has shared its treasures and we have received blessing on blessing.

So, with those who shout out your name,
and with those who whisper of your wonder,
with our sisters and brothers in every time and place,
we sing our praises to you:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
Though he was rich, he became poor for our sake.
When the multitudes were hungry, he fed them.
He broke bread with the outcast and drove the greedy from the temple.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,
you gave birth to your Church.

As the sun was setting, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) sat down around the table with his twelve followers.

(Lift Bread) During the meal, he took some of the bread, lifted it up and gave thanks. He broke it into pieces, gave some to each of them and said, "This is my body, my gift to you, take it and eat it. Do this to remember me."

(Lift Cup) After the meal was over, he took a cup of wine, lifted it up and gave thanks. He gave it to his followers and said, "This wine is for the New Peace Treaty (the new covenant), it is my life-blood poured out for many people, to heal their brokenness, and take away their bad hearts and wrongdoings. Take it now and drink all of it."

He walked among us, healing us, calling us to follow him

As we remember how he heals us,

as we celebrate how he saves us, we speak of the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

We seek you, O God, and find you waiting at this Table:

pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and juice.

Make them be for us enough for our journey,

that we may be in the world your compassion and love.

And when we have fulfilled all our days,
and we gather around that Table prepared for us in glory,
your praise will always be on our lips,
God in Community, Holy and One,
now and through all eternity, we say, **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

from Luke 11:2-4, FNV

Jesus smiled and said to them, when you send your voice to the Great Spirit, here is how you should pray:

O Great Spirit, our Father from above, your name is sacred and holy.

Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit world above are reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day all the food and good things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

And guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one in the sharing of the body of Christ.

(BREAK BREAD)

This cup is poured out for our forgiveness. *(LIFT CUP)*

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

All share in the gifts, dip bread/gluten free in the cup, or use communion sets.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Loving God, we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image,
and nourishing us with spiritual food.**

Now send us forth:

**forgiven, healed, and renewed;
that we may be your love in the world
living the life of Christ, loving who Jesus loves. Amen.**

HYMN "God Be with You till We Meet Again"

UMH 672

A BLESSING FOR SENDING FORTH: Traditional Navajo Prayer

BOW 562

Before us it is blessed, behind us it is blessed,
Below us it is blessed, above us it is blessed,
Around us it is blessed as we set out with Christ.

Our speech is blessed as we set out for God.

With beauty before us, with beauty behind us,
With beauty below us, with beauty above us,
With beauty around us, we set out for (class) a holy place indeed. Amen.

SOURCES:

First Nations Version New Testament (FNV), an indigenous translation by First Nations Version Translation Council (InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL, 2021 Rain Ministries, Inc.)

Wildman, Terry M., When the Great Spirit Walked Among Us: Four Gospels One Story (Maricopa, AZ: Great Thunder Publishing).

See prayers in UMC Book of Worship & Hymnal, and www.umcdiscipleship.org

Consultation and permission from Rev Fred A Shaw, Neeake, Shawnee descendant, elder West Ohio Conference, former director and founder of Native American Course of Study (NACOS)



Medicine Wheel formed with stones