

"LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION"

A Service of Celebration

*God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet,
for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:4-5)*

WELCOME/INTRO

ZOOM BLESSING

Leader: God, bless this time of gathering and sharing:
may there not be complications or delay when you click on the link;
**All: may the Internet connection be strong and secure to avoid disruption;
may there be joy in seeing old friends and meeting new ones;**
may you engage and contribute readily and listen respectfully;
may the discussion be interesting,
**and the sharing of insights and experience broaden your understanding
and strengthen your commitment – for the good of all God's Creation.**
Amen.
(from Iona Community Zoom Gathering by Norman Shanks, 2025)

And now let us worship and welcome our graduates:

PROCESSIONAL & OPENING HYMN "This is My Father's World"
(all stand as able, as graduates process into the Centrum)

UMH 144

OPENING PRAYER

O God of the Heavens and Earth,
In this hour, move in us that we might know our connection to all that you have created.
**In this act of worship, draw us ever closer to you,
by opening our ears to listen to your voice throughout creation. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, you come to us in the burning bush,
Help us listen to the voice of creation.
You come to us, bidding us to love each other,
Help us listen to your voice in your Word.

You come and invite us to participate in what you are creating.
Help us listen to your voice and not turn away.
Your voice echoes through the voices of all creation.
Help us listen. Help us to be Caretakers of your creation. Amen.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God of all creation! You, who make all things new, Thank you for this good Earth.
Let us be like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit at just the right time and
never growing weary of nurturing each other and your creation. For you are God, in whom
all things are made new.

And so, we pray together a prayer where justice rolls down like a mighty stream:

Our God in heaven, who always stands with the weak,

Hallowed be your name, that we may see the pain of our neighbor.

Your kingdom come, where we do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and
each other.

Your will be done, where we include your love for the poor.

Give us this day our daily bread, enough to share with the world.

And forgive us for hurting others and creation, and we will forgive those who hurt us.

And do not put us to the test, but give us more days to mend our ways.

And deliver us from evil, that blinds us from seeing injustice,

Today, tomorrow, and always. Amen.

HYMN	"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"	UMH 150
------	---	---------

SCRIPTURE	Luke 17:11-19
-----------	---------------

REFLECTION	"God Heals All of Us Lepers"	Dr. Glen Messer
------------	------------------------------	-----------------

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:

Ann Birchmeier	(Michigan)
John Bramley	(East Ohio)
Ann Dixon	(Western Pennsylvania)
Cindy Figley	(East Ohio)
John Finn	(East Ohio)
Paula Grucza	(Western Pennsylvania)
Rosanne Kalinowski	(West Ohio)
Nico Kinner	(West Ohio)
Heather Rogers	(West Virginia)

BLESSING *(each candidate may kneel or stand to receive a 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 Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

We offer our blessings as a sign of our connection in the body of Christ by laying hands on the graduates; and by sending your blessings in the chat which will be sent to the graduates.

COS Coordinator: Our congratulations and prayers go with you all. Your certificates will be sent to you. Let us pray together:

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.

Please unmute and cheer as we congratulate our graduates.

GRADUATION HYMN "Here I Am, Lord"

UMH 593

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

for the Season of Creation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, O God of justice and peace.

You created the darkness and the light. You created the sun, moon, and stars. You created your people all over the world. You set them all in motion and you blessed them.

Now, we join our voices with all of your creation, and with the great choir of saints who have gone before us, and we praise you with their unending hymn:

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.

You are holy, Creating God, who has given us every good gift through the abundance of your earth... [You provided for your people and for all your creatures, but we grew tired of your ways. We turned from you and in our greed, we ceased to know your great love. We learned to see only scarcity and destruction for the good gifts that you had given.

You spoke through the voice of creation to remind us of your ways. Your voice came from the burning bush, in the voice of lepers, and in the quiet stillness. To show us again the ways you intended for us, you sent your son, Jesus. He walked with his followers and showed them a better way. He reminded them that your love extends to all.]

In the final hours before his death, he reminded them again while sitting at the table with them, there is enough for everyone.

Taking the Bread and Cup

He took the bread and said, *Take and eat, this is my body, a gift given for you.*

(Hold up the bread)

When the supper was over, he poured a cup of wine. He gave thanks to you and shared it with them. He said, *Drink from my cup, each of you; this is the cup of God's eternal covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

(Hold up the cup)

As we prepare to share together these gifts again, we declare the mystery of faith.

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

Blessing

(Hold hands over bread and juice)

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and juice, grain and grapes of the earth.
Make them be for us the body of Christ, that we might become his body, in the world. Make
them be for us the gift of Christ, that we might be his gifts in the world.

Breaking the bread

(Break and hold up bread; lift cup)

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Giving/receiving communion...

Prayer after communion

We praise you, O God, for these gifts that we may be made new.
May coming to your table change us.
Heal us, and through us bring healing to your hurting world. **Amen.**

SONG

“The Trees of the Field”

TFWS 2279

SENDING FORTH

Let us go forth into all Creation,
to love and serve the world.

Thanks be to God

Let us bless our God and all Creation.

Thanks be to God.

And now, "Get up and go on your way;
for your faith has made you well."

Thanks be to God and Amen.

Resources:

Communion from “Word and Table” service options in The United Methodist Hymnal.
"Listen to the Voice of Creation," contributors: Rev. Laura Baumgartner, Rev. Richenda Fairhurst, Rev. Jenny Phillips, Rev. Paul Mitchell (2022 by United Methodist Creation Justice Movement). Permission granted to reprint, copy, record, stream, or display on screens for congregational or small group worship or non-profit educational use (umcreationjustice.org).