

Worship Services

Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
June 16-18, 2016

Open wide
your hearts!
2 Corinthians 6:13



230th Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
Lancaster Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, 25 S Queen St, Lancaster, PA

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Opening Worship

Thursday, June 16, 2:00 PM

Including an Act of Repentance & Holy Communion

*Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

Procession & Friendship Dance

Barry Lee & Barbara Christy
Munsee and Munsee/Seneca
and members of CONAM

(Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Committee on Native American Ministries)

***Thanksgiving Prayer (adapted from the Munsee Prayer)**

Barry Lee (in Munsee)
& Barbara Christy (in English)

***Honor Call In Memoriam of the Conestoga Massacre Victims**

***CALL TO REPENTANCE** Sherry Wack & Gary Jacabella, Non-Native members of CONAM
Please continue standing as you are able.

We Non-Native American members of The United Methodist Church are called to remember that God has been present with all persons since creation, and through prevenient grace, God has been a living Spirit moving among the world's diverse cultures.

We are called to acknowledge a historic desire among Christians to spread the good news of the gospel. Yet we must also recognize that the Church has caused or participated in indignities, cultural genocide, and atrocities against indigenous peoples who belonged to the Sovereign Nations that inhabited this land long before colonization began.

We are called to honor the worth and dignity of all persons and to admit the Church's participation in the destruction of Native American peoples and their culture.

We are called to acknowledge that, historically, to become Christian has required Native American peoples to abandon their cultural practices. These practices include traditional religious expression and prayer ceremonies, languages and arts, clothing and hair styles, music and dance. Often, conversion has caused division within families and tribes, and the loss of the unique identity associated with family and clan.

We are called to remember the many massacres of Native Americans. Especially, as Methodists, we are called to acknowledge the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre of almost 200 persons, mostly women and children, at a U.S. peace camp in an attack led by Rev. John Chivington, a Methodist preacher. In particular, in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference we acknowledge atrocities that took place on this land we stand on today including the Conestoga Massacre.

We are called to recognize the real purpose of boarding schools across this country to Christianize and Americanize Native American children by severing all connections with their families, culture, and languages. To do so resulted in cruel punishment, abuse and sometimes death. In Eastern Pennsylvania especially we acknowledge the destruction done by Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle Pennsylvania, the first off reservation federally endorsed school.

We are called to understand the legacy of over five centuries of historical trauma, and its effect on Native Americans today. Especially, as members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, we are called to recognize and admit to the continued erasure of people and culture as well as widespread violence done to the Munsee, Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, Mohegan and other Woodland tribes. In particular, we acknowledge violent acts committed during the War for Independence, when American soldiers burned whole fields and villages in an attempt to drive Native American people from their land.

We are called to acknowledge our personal and corporate profit through the 1452 Doctrine of Discovery, wherein the Church declared war against all non-Christians throughout the world, thereby sanctioning and promoting the conquest, colonization, and exploitation of non-Christian nations and their territories. In particular, we acknowledge Native Americans living within the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference today who have been made invisible to the predominant culture and to our churches by our own inability to honor and value those who continue to welcome us every day even as we occupy their ancestral lands.

We are thankful that the 2012 United Methodist Church repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery, but we lament that the doctrine is still used in American courts as a legal document and as a basis for human rights abuses and the seizing of native lands.

TODAY, we are called to confess, deeply reflect upon, and apologize for over 500 years of maltreatment and the resultant trauma with which Native Americans still live. We are called to acknowledge that these systemic injustices harm all of us – Native Americans and Non-Native Americans alike. Only then are we ready to honestly repent – to turn our hearts, souls, and actions in new directions of healthy, respectful and honoring ways of living.

We are called by the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to hold an *Act of Repentance Service for the Healing of Relationships with Indigenous Persons*. We are called to actively engage in the process of healing through listening and learning with Native Americans. We are called to be the living and resurrected body of Christ in the world remembering that when one part is neglected or mistreated the entire body suffers. Therefore seeking to be the true and whole body of Christ in the world, we gather.

***OPENING HYMN**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

UMH 577

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church’s story; bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, (of this hour)
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, (of these days)
for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, (kingdom's goal)
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, (we adore)
serving thee whom we adore.

PRAYER

Sandi Cianciulli, Lakota, Chair
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CONAM

Creator God,

We come to this time and this place to give thanks for your abundant love for each of us. We know we have not always done your will and loved our neighbor. We ask you for ears to hear your truths. We ask for eyes to see the pain of others as well as the beauty of their beings. We ask for open hearts to love one another as you have loved us. Help us, beloved God, to be your hands and feet as we seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

MESSAGE

"A New Beginning" John 1:1-5

The Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett
Member of the Seneca Nation
General Secretary Emeritus of the United Methodist General Board Of Church & Society
Recipient of the 2016 Council of Bishops Ecumenical Award.

RESPONSIVE CONFESSION

Bishop Johnson
& David Koch, EPA Conference Lay Leader

Isaiah 40:3-5 (The Message)

Thunder in the desert!
"Prepare for God's arrival!
Make the road straight and smooth,
a highway fit for our God.
Fill in the valleys,
level off the hills,
Smooth out the ruts,
clear out the rocks.
Then God's bright glory will shine
and everyone will see it.
Yes. Just as God has said."

Maker of the silent, contemplative oceans
and the singing streams
and the laughing waterfalls

and the storms
 pummeling hot pavement
and the secret rains
 kissing cool earth

By your Spirit and Word
coming forth:
Power over and under water,

Knowledge beyond knowledge
O God, you know.

We have not sought justice.
What justice do we deserve?
But mercy, we plead, mercy.
ALL: God, have mercy.

Daniel 9:4-7, 16 (The Message)

“O Master, great and august God. You never waver in your covenant commitment, never give up on those who love you and do what you say. Yet we have sinned in every way imaginable. We’ve done evil things, rebelled, dodged, and taken detours around your clearly marked paths. We’ve turned a deaf ear to your servants the prophets, who preached your Word to our kings and leaders, our parents, and all the people in the land. You have done everything right, God, but all we have to show for our lives is guilt and shame, the whole lot of us...”

“We know it’s our fault that this has happened, all because of our sins and our parents’ sins, and now we’re an embarrassment to everyone around us.”

On behalf of our ancestors,

ALL: we fall to our knees.

On behalf of our people,

ALL: we bow our heads.

On behalf of ourselves,

ALL: we rend our hearts. What have we done?

Instead of listening

ALL: we talk nonstop.

Instead of loving others,

ALL: we make love transactional.

Instead of hearing the cries of our neighbors,

ALL: we turn their cries around and make it about us.

Instead of honoring God’s natural order

ALL: we hoard blessings,

Instead of recognizing boundaries and sharing what we have,

ALL: we take too much for ourselves,

Knowledge beyond knowledge, O God, you know.

Instead of confessing,
Instead of repenting on behalf of our ancestors
and on behalf of the systems from which we benefit
and the history of our nation
and the history of our Church:
ALL: we have closed our eyes
we have not spoken up
we have cut ourselves off
we have pretended like this was what you wanted from us.

1 Corinthians 2:3 (The Message, language adapted for inclusivity)

“It’s a wonder God didn’t lose God’s temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, God embraced us. God took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. God did this on God’s own with no help from us!”

Great Mystery,
Hold us accountable by your Spirit:
ALL: to talk less and listen more
to take less and give more
to destroy less and heal more
to display less pride and more humility

John 10:14-16 (New Revised Standard Version, language adapted for inclusivity)

Let us remember Jesus’ words.

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as God the Creator, knows me and I know the Creator. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

ALL: God have mercy!
Free us in grace and open our hearts
to receive the blessing of a new relationship.

And with your grace
may we enter into this time of repentance
that you have created for us
out of the creative chaotic darkness.

With your soaring Spirit pull us together
in the birth of something new.

RESPONSE WITH SYMBOLIC ACTION

Verna Colliver, Non-Native member of CONAM

I John 4:12 (NRSV language adapted for inclusivity)

“No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God lives in us, and God’s love is perfected in us.”

In the center of your table is a ribbon for each person at your table. Notice the ribbon is gray. It represents the ashes of repentance. This ribbon symbolizes one step in the journey.

THE FUTURE

Bishop Peggy Johnson

On behalf of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, we will

- Affirm our commitment to empowering the presence of Native and indigenous people in the life of the Conference.
- Encourage and support the Committee on Native American Ministries. representative in my local church.
- Support Native American Ministries Sunday in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.
- Strengthen the Eastern Pennsylvania Committee on Native American Ministries.
- Support General Advances and church-wide funding for Native ministries.
- Commit ourselves to the development o new Native and indigenous ministries and strengthen our support for existing community entities.
- Commit to developing relationships of mutuality with Native peoples in local contexts.
- Continue to provide education for Non-Native people about why the *Act of Repentance* is important.

In partnership with Native ministry leaders and resource people throughout the Connection, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will support:

- Developing new Native and indigenous leaders across the Connection including an increased number of people nurtured for service in congregational, Annual, Jurisdictional and Central conferences, and General Church Ministries, including the episcopacy.
- Support General Church initiatives related to land and treaty rights, support for tribal sovereignty and cultural preservation; better health care and education for Native people and the safety of Native and indigenous women.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Amazing Grace”

UMH 378

All are encouraged to sing in their native language.

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

A Native American Celebration of Holy Communion

Bishop Peggy Johnson
and Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett

Offering of Hospitality and Welcome to the Feast

*ONE: Welcome family! Welcome relations! Welcome all! The house of the Creator is our gathering place today.

The feast has been prepared for us all.

This may be your first time to share the feast of Holy Communion. Welcome to the table that binds us all together!

God, who walked with our ancestors, who walks among us now, and who will walk with our children's children for generations to come, we give you thanks for your presence.

MANY: In the air that we breathe, in the sound of rustling leaves and in the waving grass.

ONE: We give you thanks for your presence.

MANY: In the sound of children's laughter, and in the songs of our elders,

ONE: We give you thanks for your presence.

ONE: Let us help each other stand and take off the robe of mourning.

Lift up your broken hearts:

MANY: We lift them up to God

ONE: Let us honor God

MANY: It is right to honor God

ONE: It is right to honor God and to give our thanks.

MANY: We give our thanks to God.

Please be seated.

Why We Are Here

ONE: We send to you, Creator God, our dreams, visions, and prayers.

For our mission,

Let your Spirit move us to honor and respect one another – from the least to the greatest. May we treat everyone we encounter with dignity and love. May we affirm the image of the Creator within each one of us. May we help restore the image of the Creator on earth. May our words, thoughts, and actions nourish and sustain your creation.

For the Church,

May she lead and dance with honor. Let all who follow her steps and rhythm know and feel righteousness and strength. May her regalia exemplify purity and perfection.

For the world,

May the nations of the earth gather to listen to the heartbeat of God. May they sit in silence as the Great Peacemaker teaches and shows them how to walk upright. May the war clubs and instruments of destruction be transformed into life giving means of grace. (Isaiah 2)

For the hearts of the people,

Created with your sacred fire burning within us, we confess that we struggle to live out of our great potential. When we do harm to your Creation, your creatures and fellow human beings,

ALL: forgive us.

One: When we fail to do all the good we can, in all the places we can,

ALL: forgive us.

One: When we turn away from your love and grace,

ALL: forgive us.

One: Hear now the good news of Jesus Christ,

ALL: You are forgiven. I am forgiven. We are forgiven.

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Please "pass the peace" by word and handshake.

WE PREPARE FOR THE FEAST

Song of Praise

One: Be glorified, Everlasting Light who ends our mourning. Be glorified, Planter of righteousness whose hands have formed us with strength. Be glorified! (based on Is. 60:19-21; 61:3)

All honor to the Son of God who brings good news to the poor. All honor to Jesus Christ who brings freedom to the oppressed and sight to the blind. All honor! (based on Luke 4:18)

All praise to the Holy Spirit who helps us in our weakness. All praise to the Sacred Spirit who teaches us how to pray and intercedes on our behalf. All praise! (based on Romans 8:26)
Jesus Christ, Creator's Son, our brother and friend,

Many: with honor and respect, we remember the great sacrifice of your life for us and for our people.

One: With awe and humility, we remember the miracle of your resurrection from death.

Many: With faith, hope and trust, we remember the promise you made to return and lead us home.

One: Creator God, Jesus, your son, understood the importance of community and relationship. On the night he gave himself up for us, he gathered his disciples from many tribes, and shared a meal with them in preparation for his death and resurrection.

As he stood in the midst of them, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Sharing of the Feast

One: As the grain was given by Creator God to all peoples of the world,

Many: Jesus Christ was also given to nourish and sustain.

One: As the fruit of the vine was given by Creator God to all peoples of the world,

Many: Jesus Christ was also given to bind us to God and one another.

One: As the women from many tribes knead, fold, and make the bread in holy stillness, so the women tended and cared for the broken body of Jesus Christ:

Many: A sacrifice for us.

One: Spirit, help us now. Come and breathe into these gifts of bread and juice. As we receive these gifts into our bodies, may our breath become the sweet breath of Christ.

*One: Rise up, Nations of God,

Many: Give God your praise!

One: Rise up, Clans of Nations,

Many: Come together and give God your praise!

One: Rise up, Bands of Nations,

Many: Lift your hands and give God your praise!

In the center of your table, you will find a small loaf of bread and a cup of juice. You are invited to share in the communion feast with one another, around your tables. We will commune around the tables by intinction; please tear off a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and receive the communion elements.

All of the bread for today's communion service is gluten-free, so that all persons at each table may share in the one loaf. For those with a sensitivity to grape juice, a cup of water has also been provided. Our Conference Health & Healing Council has also provided individually-wrapped antibacterial cleansing cloths that you may use before communion.

Please share in the feast with each other, around your tables, as you feel led. You may say "the body of Christ given for you" and "the love of Christ poured out for you" as you share.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: "For Everyone Born"

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
For everyone born, a star overhead.

Refrain:

*And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight
when we are creators, of justice, justice and joy!*

2. For woman and man, a place at the table,
Revising the roles, deciding the share,
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
For woman and man, a system that's fair.

(Refrain)

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,
A voice to be heard, and part in the song,
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
For young and for old, the right to belong.
(Refrain)

4. For just and unjust, a place at the table,
Abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
For just and unjust, a new way to live.
(Refrain)

5. For everyone born, a place at the table,
To live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
For everyone born, the right to be free.
(Refrain)

ONE: As the rivers flow, let us hear his song.
As the winds blow, let us hear his whispers.
As the grasses sway, let us see them dance.
As the eagle soars, calm our minds.
Christ's love is always there.
Open our arms to embrace his love.
Let us embrace one another and share this message of love. Amen.

***MUSICAL RESPONSE:**

"O God the Creator"

1. Oh, God, the Creator, the Three in One,
The Creator of earth and moon and sun
You have loved and protected us since time first began.

Refrain:

*And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love*

2. For the earth is our mother where all things grow
And her valleys are green where the waters flow.
Gentle deer and the eagle and the mighty buffalo.
(Refrain)

3. We are one in the Spirit, in the great mystery
Walk together in beauty as we dwell in harmony.
Bringing all of God's children into one community.
(Refrain)

4. Send a sense of your presence as we seek leadership.
Pray that God will join us in our vision quest.
Welcome God to come into our hearts as our guest.
(Refrain)

*SENDING FORTH

Words for the Journey

Allen Keller, Provisional Deacon

ONE: We have taken Jesus into us, we now go out into the different directions to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We go out to correct what we did wrong, what others did wrong, and to sometimes take the blame for another's mistake as Jesus did for us. We go out to stand up for the powerless, the voiceless, and those invisible. Gracious God, let your mercy and grace fall on us and give us courage to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

MANY: Creator God, as we walk from this place with renewed strength for the journey before us, let us follow the path of Jesus, as the Spirit guides our steps. Help us to make wise choices in the days ahead, to serve those in need, and to remember our place in the circle of life. Remind us to listen to our elders, to teach our children the traditions of our people, to respect one another and all creation. As we wait for the day when we will be reunited with you and those who have gone before us, keep our hope alive and our footsteps on the path toward home.

ONE: When we depart from one another, remember, Creator God was here before we came and will be here after we depart. Creator God came in with us and will stay with us when we depart. We are all connected to each other and to our Creator. All praise to Creator God!

ALL: Amen.

RECESSIONAL

Worship Notes:

Friendship Dance:

An Eastern Woodlands social dance for welcoming and call to friendship. Historically this would have been performed in the Longhouse. The instruments could include a water drum, or sticks, and/or a horn rattle.

Honor Call: Names Spoken In Memoriam of the Conestoga Massacre Victims

Munsee: the language first spoken in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Response with Symbolic Action:

This ritual provides an opportunity for all of us to respond to the Act of Repentance Confession both individually and in community. Together we acknowledge the words we have spoken as well as the importance of the relationships in this journey toward repentance. As individuals we have the further opportunity to reflect on the words we have spoken and how God may be calling us to respond after we leave this place. Whether we break, tear, or gently remove our bracelet later, may we also come to understand more deeply our baptismal vows made by individuals and affirmed in community to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves and to confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.

Music

God of Grace and God of Glory by Harry E. Fosdick, The United States, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989), 577.

Amazing Grace by John Newton, Great Britain, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989), 378.

For Everyone Born by Shirley Erena Murray, New Zealand, *Global Songs for an Emerging Church*. Jorge Lockward and Christopher Heckert ed. (New York: General Board of Global Ministries, 2008,) 2.

O God the Creator, the Three in One by Elizabeth Haile, Shinnecock and Cecil Corbett, Nez Perce, *The New Century Hymnal*, (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1995), 291. Dr. Elizabeth Haile a highly respected leader in the Shinnecock Nation and the Northeast Jurisdictional CoNAM entered the Spirit World August 21, 2015.

Music used with permission, CCLI #1083685

Liturgy:

Responsive Confession (Act of Repentance) Litanies: The Rev. Rachel Morse Upper New York Annual Conference adapted by the Eastern Pennsylvania CONAM worship subcommittee.

Holy Communion Liturgy including "Words for the Journey" Used with permission of the Native American Writing Group of the Open Source Liturgy Project (Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church). This resource is covered under a [Creative Commons License 3.0 \(BY, NC, ND\)](#).

Acknowledgements:

Act of Repentance Worship Planning Team:

Eastern PA CONAM worship subcommittee members: Sandi Cianciulli, CONAM Chair, Verna Colliver, Barbara Christy, Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne, Subcommittee Chair, Barry Lee, Sherry Wack.

Musicians:

David Bryant

Barry Lee & Barbara Christy

Lydia Muñoz

Instruments: Organ, Water Drum and Native American Flute

Design:

Our altar and vestments highlight the liturgical color, purple. Purple is the liturgical color for the seasons of Lent and Advent, where we seek repentance and preparation for God's Kingdom.

Retiree Recognition

Friday, June 17, 3:00 PM

PRELUDE

*Call to Worship

One: Before the mountains were born or the world was brought into being,

Many: from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psalm 90:2)

One: God who was, and is, and will continue to be,

Many: journeys with us and rejoices in each of our lives.

One: God, who rejoiced the day of our baptisms,

Many: rejoiced on the day of our callings.

One: God, who equips us for ministry,

Many: faithfully offers each next new opportunity.

One: Serving God in early years through years of experience,

Many: God has been there to delight in each joy and weep in each tear.

One: As our journeys meander or race,

Many: God continues to summon us to a fresh, new season of serving God.

*Hymn No. 2130

"The Summons"

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*Unison Prayer

Calling God, we hear you summoning us over the din of our distractions. We hear you calling us again to live and show your love. We hear you calling us anew, even as days pile upon days and years fill into decades. We praise you as we sing the songs of faith that have accompanied us through the challenges of yesterday and filled us with bright hope for tomorrow. Faithful God, you have brought us this far in our journey, and you promise to lead us on into both familiar pastures and unknown explorations. With praise and thanksgiving, we celebrate your presence with us in the past, now at this time, and in days to come. Lead us in your paths through the seasons of our lives. In the name of One who transcends time and lives alongside us in time, we pray, Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

Hymn No. 3030

“Eternal God Transcending Time”

1. Eternal God transcending time, yet mindful of the fears,
the hopes, the questions raised for us by ever-changing years:
so guide us through our pilgrim days that we may find a home
where justice, truth, and mercy meet, fulfilled in your shalom.

Recognition of Service Milestones

Introduction

We indeed worship and serve an Eternal God; a God who existed in the beginning, before time and outside time; a God who spoke a word and created a time for every matter under heaven, a God who transcends time.

And yet, it is this same God who meets us in the midst of time, this same God who is indeed mindful of the fears, the hopes, the questions raised for us by ever-changing years.

Today, we gather to celebrate ministry in the midst of those ever-changing years. We gather to worship the God who works through ministry in the midst of those ever-changing years. We gather to celebrate anniversaries of those serving in ministry, to acknowledge the ministry milestones: the 60th anniversary of the ordination of women, and the 20th anniversary of full clergy membership for deacons, and to honor the faithful service of those entering retirement this year.

As we worship, celebrate, acknowledge, and honor, let us also remember the ever-changing years throughout which we have seen God at work.

Hymn No. 3030

“Eternal God Transcending Time”

2. Incarnate God revealed in time, true Word in flesh re-told,
who marked the years from birth to death, then rose to break death's hold:
by your becoming one with us, help us to know and claim
the unity of all baptized in your redeeming name.

10 Years

Ten years ago, in 2006, we watched with the world as Saddam Hussein was tried by an Iraqi tribunal and sentenced to death.

In 2006, we mourned with Amish families after the shooting at Nickel Mines. We heard convictions of conspiracy and fraud pronounced on the executives of Enron. We laid to rest Coretta Scott King.

In 2006, we heard news of scientists adding the final sequence of the last chromosome to the Human Genome Project – and news of other scientists who demoted Pluto.

In 2006, we came to fear E. coli on spinach as outbreaks overtook the nation, and to fear liquids on planes as terror plots were averted.

In 2006, we shortened our thoughts to 140 characters as Twitter was launched.

In 2006, we flocked to theatres to see *The DaVinci Code*, *Cars*, and yet another appearance of James Bond in *Casino Royale*. iTunes sold its one-billionth song, including this one, that topped the charts that year: (Top Song of 2006)

And in 2006, the people of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference gathered together in Philadelphia on June 21 for Annual Conference sessions with Bishop Marcus Matthews.

Will those who began their professional ministry in 2006, and who today are celebrating ten years of ministry, please stand and be recognized?

20 Years

Twenty years ago, in 1996, many of us dug ourselves out from a blizzard that dumped thirty inches of snow on Philadelphia. Sound familiar?

In 1996, we celebrated the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta... and reeled in horror at the Olympic Park bombing that soon followed the opening ceremonies.

In 1996, Americans cast votes in “Decision ‘96” – featuring incumbent Democratic President Bill Clinton and Republican Senator Bob Dole. That same year, we saw Kofi Annan elected the General Secretary of the United Nations.

In 1996, we heard news of Dolly, the first cloned sheep, born in Scotland; and Ted Kaczynski, the “Unabomber”, arrested in Montana.

In 1996, Nintendo released its state-of-the-art gaming system, Nintendo 64; *Independence Day* played on the big screen; *Braveheart* won the Oscar; and this was our jam: (Top Song of 1996)

And in 1996, just months after the General Conference met in Denver, Colorado, the people of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference gathered together in King of Prussia on June 13 for Annual Conference sessions with Bishop Susan M. Morrison.

Will those who began their professional ministry in 1996, and who today are celebrating twenty years of ministry, please stand and be recognized?

30 Years

Thirty years ago, in 1986, our attention turned to the heavens. We watched, in shock and grief, as the space shuttle Challenger exploded just minutes after its launch. We celebrated, in awe, as Voyager became the first aircraft to circle our earth.

In 1986, we watched as Desmond Tutu became the first black bishop of the Anglican Church in South Africa, as Pope John Paul II became the first modern pope to visit the Great Synagogue of Rome, and as Elie Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1986, we watched, helpless, as the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant melted down.

In 1986, the Oprah Winfrey Show premiered. So did the first computer virus, "Brain."

In 1986, we headed to theatres to see *Top Gun*, *Platoon*, and *Crocodile Dundee*, and played this on our cassette tapes: (Top Song of 1986)

And in 1986, the people of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference gathered together in Reading on June 10 for Annual Conference sessions with Bishop F. Herbert Skeete.

Will those who began their professional ministry in 1986, and who today are celebrating thirty years of ministry, please stand and be recognized?

40 Years

Forty years ago, in 1976, fireworks filled the skies as the United States celebrated its bicentennial, while Americans cast their votes in "Decision '76" – incumbent Republican President Gerald Ford against Democratic hopeful Jimmy Carter.

In 1976, the Soweto Uprising began in South Africa, Concorde service began in Washington DC, the "Son of Sam" killings began in New York, and Viking 1 landed on Mars.

In 1976, the would-be assassin of President Gerald Ford was sentence to life in prison; later in that same year, the Supreme Court would, in *Gregg. v. Georgia*, deem the death penalty 'constitutional.'

In 1976, IBM released the first laser printer, and a couple of guys named Steve formed a company called Apple Computer.

In 1976, *Rocky* appeared on the big screens, *The Muppet Show* premiered on the small screens, and this song played on everyone's 8-tracks: (Top Song of 1976)

And in 1976, the people of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference gathered together in Reading on June 8 for Annual Conference sessions with Bishop James M. Ault.

Will those who began their professional ministry in 1976, and who today are celebrating forty years of ministry, please stand and be recognized?

50 Years

Fifty years ago, in 1966, the National Organization for Women was founded in Washington DC, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a civil rights march in Chicago.

In 1966, the Soviet Union pulled ahead in the space race, launching *Luna 10*, the first space probe to enter lunar orbit. Closer to earth, US planes began to drop bombs on Hanoi and Haiphong.

In 1966, getting to church on time became a little harder, as President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the practice of Daylight Savings Time. That same year, reading the Bible became a little easier, as the Roman Catholic Jerusalem Bible was published for the first time in English.

In August of 1966, the Beatles performed the last show of their last US tour at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, while that December, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* premiered on CBS.

In 1966, we headed to the movies to see Clint Eastwood in *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*; and John Wayne in *El Dorado*. And we listened to this on vinyl: (Top Song of 1966)

In 1966, the Methodist Episcopal Church held a General Conference in Portland, Oregon (of all places)... and on November 12th of that year, representatives of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church met in Chicago and voted on a plan of merger that, in two years' time, would create The United Methodist Church.

Will those who began their professional ministry in 1966, who began ministry as "Evangelical United Brethren" or "Methodist Episcopal," and who today are celebrating fifty years of ministry, please stand and be recognized?

*Hymn No. 3030

"Eternal God Transcending Time"

3. Life-breathing God enlivening time, awaking heart and tongue,
inspiring prophets, bringing hope, consoling old and young:
draw us to those denied your gifts by bias, want, or strife,
convert our wills and form through us new channels of your life.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Rev. Sally Wisner Ott, longest-ordained woman in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Rev. Jennifer Sauerbrun, co-chair of Women in Professional Ministry

Today, as we remember the ever-changing years through which we have seen God work, we acknowledge the holy moments in which God has brought change to our church.

This year, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of ordination and full clergy rights for women. In 1956, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church voted to extend ordination to women. That year, twenty-seven women were received into the full membership of their annual conferences.

As we celebrate this milestone within our denomination, we honor the women of our Annual Conference who faithfully proclaim the good news in the midst of ordained ministry:

- We remember Jane Harner and Elaine Barnes, the first women ordained in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Let us honor their memories with a moment of silence.
- We give thanks for the women who continue to faithfully serve in ordained ministry throughout our conference, and ask them to stand and be recognized.
- We lift up, with hope, the women who will be ordained tonight, and ask them to stand and be recognized.

We celebrate a great line of faithful witnesses, from the women at the empty tomb, who first proclaimed the good news of the resurrection; to the women preachers who shared the gospel in the earliest years of our parent denominations; to the women who now serve in ordained ministry; to the women God has yet to call.

Let us give thanks:

- for the full inclusion of women in ordained ministry.
- for those who provided support and paved the path towards ordained ministry for women.
- for the women who responded to God's call in the midst of opposition or hostility.
- for those women who continue to respond to God's call.

Let us give thanks to God!

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Order of Deacons

Rev. Richard Erisman, member of Eastern Pennsylvania's first class of ordained deacons (1997)

Rev. Tiffany Manning, chair of the Order of Deacons

Today, we continue to acknowledge the holy moments in which God has brought change to our church.

This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of full clergy membership for deacons. In 1996, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church voted to establish the Order of Deacons as a distinct and full clergy order, made up of ordained deacons who sought to be a bridge between the church and the world.

As we celebrate this milestone within our denomination, we honor those who serve in our Annual Conference through the Order of Deacons:

- We celebrate those were ordained in the first class of deacons at the 1997 sessions of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. We ask them to stand and be recognized.
- We give thanks for those who continue to faithfully serve as ordained deacons throughout our conference, and ask them to stand and be recognized.
- We lift up, with hope, those who will be commissioned and ordained to the ministry of a deacon tonight, and ask them to stand and be recognized.

We celebrate a great line of faithful witnesses, from the deacons of the early church, who utilized their special gifts for the work of extending the church into the world; to the first United Methodist deacons who stepped forward to define and live out this ordained identity; to the deacons who continue to serve in this ministry of word, service, compassion, and justice; to the deacons God has yet to call out and send forth.

Let us give thanks:

- for the establishment of the Order of Deacons.
- for the vital, specialized ministries of those who serve as deacons.
- for those deacons who continue to respond to God's call.

Let us give thanks to God!

*Hymn No. 3030

“Eternal God Transcending Time”

4. Great Triune God, so bless the time entrusted to our care,
that all our varied ministries may form a common prayer;
then when time ceases, bring us where divisions are undone,
that in your presence, joined in praise, at last we may be one.

Celebrating Our Retirees

Video Presentation

Recognizing Our Retirees

Rev. Warren B. Cederholm, Jr.

Rev. John E. Charnock, Jr.

Rev. John B. (“Skip”) Davis, II

Rev. Charles Englehart

Rev. Clifford C. Flick

Rev. Denise Founds

Rev. Nancy A Gehres

Rev. James A. Goudie

Rev. Lester M. Groves

Rev. Dennis G. Keen

Rev. Craig D. Laubach

Rev. Jong-Soo Lee

Rev. Larry R. Mark

Rev. Steven T. McComas

Rev. Deborah McLean

Rev. BonnieKaren Mullen-Holtz

Rev. Kathryn J. Painter

Rev. Margret Marie Powell

Rev. Gerald (Jerry) Reifsnyder

Rev. Charles A. Rothermel

Rev. Nancy Haigh Ross

Rev. Albert N. Schell, Jr.

Rev. Joseph L. Wenrich

Rev. John C. Wheatley

Rev. Kathryn Anne Wieder

Rev. Dr. Bronwyn Yocum

“Passing the Mantle”

At this moment in the service, we invite this year’s class of retirees to gather around this year’s class of ordinands. In this holy moment, our retirees will present prayer shawls to the ordinands while anointing them and praying for them, symbolically “passing the mantle” to the next generation of church leaders in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

In the center of each of your tables, you will find small white note cards. We invite you write a note of thanks and celebration to a retiree, or a note of encouragement and celebration to an ordinand or a commissionee, as they celebrate this significant day in their ministries. Please leave the handwritten cards in the center of your tables, with the retiree’s, ordinand’s or commissionee’s name on the front, and volunteers will ensure your cards are delivered.

***Hymn No. 140**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Refrain)

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Memorial Service

Saturday, June 18, 10:30 AM

*O CAPTAIN! my Captain! our fearful trip is done;
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won;
Walt Whitman*

GATHERING MUSIC

The Robert Ladson Ensemble of Philadelphia, PA
Solo: Rhetta A. Green, "Return to Sender"
Ingrid Broadnax, "Praise Dance" of Mt. Pisgah AME

Gathering Words of Grace

UMH 871

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
I died, and behold I am alive for evermore,
and I hold the keys of hell and death.
Because I live, you also shall live.

*Processional Hymn

"Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above"

UMH 709

1. Come, let us join our friends above who have obtained the prize,
and on the eagle wings of love to joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven are one.
2. One family we dwell in him, one church above, beneath,
though now divided by the stream, the narrow stream of death;
one army of the living God, to his command we bow;
part of his host have crossed the flood, and part are crossing now.
3. Ten thousand to their endless home this solemn moment fly,
and we are to the margin come, and we expect to die.
E'en now by faith we join our hands with those that went before,
and greet the blood-besprinkled bands on the eternal shore.
4. Our spirits too shall quickly join, like theirs with glory crowned,
and shout to see our Captain's sign, to hear his trumpet sound.
O that we now might grasp our Guide! O that the word were given!
Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves divide, and land us all in heaven.

***Opening Prayer in Unison**

Lord of all, we praise you
for all your saints who have entered into their rest.
Give us grace to follow in their footsteps
as they followed in the way of Jesus, the Christ.
Thank you for their witness that strengthens ours,
and grant us their courage to journey faithfully
until we meet again
in everlasting peace and rest.
Amen.

Sacred Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

Hymn of Response

“When We Are Living / Pues Si Vivimos”

UMH 356

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

(1.) Pues si vivimos, para Él vivimos
y si morimos para Él morimos.
Sea que vivamos o que muramos,
somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

(3.) En la tristeza y en el dolor,
en la belleza y en el amor
sea que suframos o que gocemos,
somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

We belong to God, we belong to God.

Sacred Reading Romans 8:31-39

SERMON

“Nor Death nor Life”

Bishop Marcus Matthews
Baltimore Washington
Episcopal Area

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Rev. Lydia E. Muñoz, solo
Rev. David Eckert,
accompanist

Litany of Remembrance *(ancient Jewish Prayer of Remembrance)*

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.

Celebrating the Lives of those who have entered the Church Triumphant

The Tradition

As we gather each year for Annual Conference sessions, one of our most sacred traditions is to remember and honor those who have passed away since last we gathered. We read aloud the names of bishops, clergy, spouses and children of clergy, and laity with a special connection to the Annual Conference. As we read the names and sound the bell, we invite you to stand in honor of those whom you are remembering today.

The Sand Ritual

To the families of those we remember: We welcome you and offer you our heartfelt condolences. As each name is read, we ask each family to come forward. The bishop and district superintendents will hand the family members a container of sand, and the family members are invited to pour this sand into a larger, common vessel as a ritual of remembrance. After the service, the families will be invited to take home a small container of that sand as a token of remembrance.

To the gathered body: In the center of each of your tables, you will find a small container of sand. As you stand in honor of those whom you remember, we invite you to pour a small amount of the sand into the larger container in the center of the table, echoing the families in their ritual of remembrance.

The Names

Bishops:

Bishop Jesse DeWitt 11/26/15
Bishop William Morris 1/14/16

Clergy:

William A Sharp 06/18/2015
William Theodore Bach 09/15/2015
Tresita M. Beach 03/04/2016
Kenneth L. Beale, Sr. 05/14/2016
Erwin E. Boettcher 05/02/2016
Annette B. Bolds 09/03/2015
G. Kim Gilson 06/26/2015
Colin T. M. Gorman 06/25/2015
Brian Terry Lee Hunt 05/27/2015
John Kulp 02/22/2016
James A. Landis 05/11/2016
Robert Linthicum 01/21/2016
Frederick C. Lowery 02/19/2016
Richard C. Mark 08/24/2015
Jere R. Martin 09/15/2015
John Ness 01/30/2016
Robert E. Nicholson 01/22/2016
Myron Steele 01/23/2016
Richard Voigt 02/19/2016
Russell E. Walters 09/22/2015

Spouses:

Jo Anne Boone 11/23/2015
Helen D. Chreiman 12/22/2015
Gladys Fernsler 09/05/2015
Mabel Gorman 02/01/2015
Laura Hathaway 03/22/2015
Geraldine Havens 05/24/2016
Vicki Lynne Hill 06/03/2015
Weslia Hynicka 08/30/2015
Ruth E. Myers 11/04/2015
Barbara M. Osborn Ness 08/01/2015
William Nolte 12/16/2015
Vanessa Ross 09/23/2015
Daniel E Shirey 09/10/2015
Diane Whitehead 05/20/2016

Children:

Rahul V. Bhajjan 03/12/2016
Prashanth Davis 09/15/2015
Douglass C. Vandegrift 10/24/2015

Laity:

Ross Brightwell 03/27/2016
Jorge Ortiz 04/06/2016

Sung Prayer Response

(traditional indigenous Guatemalan melody)

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you.

*Prayer of Commemoration & Blessing

Bishop Peggy Johnson

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy
you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.
Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength
to lift us from the darkness of grief
to the peace and light of your presence.
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death
and by rising again, restored life.
May we then go forward eagerly to meet him,
and after our life on earth
be reunited with our brothers and sisters
where every tear will be wiped away.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH

*Closing Song of Praise "We'll Understand it Better By and By"

UMH 525

1. We are tossed and driven on the restless sea of time;
somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
in that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
we will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:

*By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story of how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by. (by and by)*

2. We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
we are trusting in the Lord, and according to God's word,
we will understand it better by and by.

(Refrain)

3. Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand
all the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised land;
but he guides us with his eye, and we'll follow till we die,
for we'll understand it better by and by.
(Refrain)

4. Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,
and our hearts are made to bleed for a thoughtless word or deed;
and we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
but we'll understand it better by and by.
(Refrain)

POSTLUDE