

Worship Services

**Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
June 15-17, 2017**



231st Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456

Opening Worship

June 15, 2017 – 2:00 PM



*OPENING SCRIPTURE READING – JOHN 6:35-40

³⁵Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

*PROCESSIONAL HYMNS

"GOD OF LOVE AND GOD OF POWER"

1. God of love and God of power,
grant us in this burning hour
grace to ask these gifts of thee,
daring hearts and spirits free.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.
2. We are not the first to be
banished by our fears from thee;
give us courage, let us hear
heaven's trumpets ringing clear.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.
3. All our lives belong to thee,
thou our final loyalty;
servants, we, whene'er we share
that devotion anywhere.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.

4. God of love and God of power,
make us worthy of this hour;
offering lives if it's thy will,
keeping free our spirits still.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.

“O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING”

1. Glory to God, and praise and love
be ever, ever given,
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.
2. On that glad day the glorious Sun
of Righteousness arose;
on my benighted soul he shone
and filled it with repose.
3. He speaks and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.
4. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.
5. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise!
The glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rise up, people of prayer!

Many: Let us pray and seek God's will.

One: Rise up, people of faith!

Many: Let us faithfully follow God's will.

One: Rise up, people of Christ!

Many: Let us join our voices with Christ, saying: “Thy will be done!”

*OPENING HYMN – “RISE UP, MY FRIENDS”

1. Rise up my friends to pray

Spend time in love with God.
On knees let us start each new day
Spend time in love with God.

2. Rise up my friends to pray
Twirl, leap, and dance for joy,
Express your gratitude this way
Twirl, leap, and dance for joy.
3. Rise up my friends to pray
let's join in cent'ring prayer.
taking time for our God today
let's join in cent'ring prayer.
4. Rise up my friends to pray
Now listen and be still,
There is so much God wants to say
Now listen and be still.

*UNISON PRAYER

Ever-present and Everlasting God, you have called us to this place. You have called us your own. You have called us to follow your will. We seek, Lord, to be the people you have called us to be! Grant us the grace we need to live as your people. Strengthen us in our lives of prayer, that in prayer, we may discover your will... and that in your will, we may discover our purpose. Amen.

All may be seated.

SCRIPTURE – PSALM 40:4-8

- ⁴ Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
*who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.*
- ⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;
none can compare with you.
*Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.*
- ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
*Burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have not required.*
- ⁷ Then I said, 'Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
- ⁸ *I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.'*

SCRIPTURE – LUKE 22:39-46

³⁹He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' ⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. ⁴⁵When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Rise up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

HYMN OF PREPARATION – “LEAD ME, LORD”

Lead me, Lord,
lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord,
thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

THE MESSAGE

“Rise Up and Pray”

Bishop Peggy Johnson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “THY WILL BE DONE”

1. My Lord, my God! whene'er I stray,
far from my home in life's rough way,
Oh! teach me from my heart to say,
“Thy will be done! Thy will be done!”
2. If thou shouldst call me to resign,
what most I prize, it ne'er was mine.
I only yield thee what was thine;
“Thy will be done! Thy will be done!”
3. If but my fainting heart be blest,
with thy sweet Spirit for its guest,
my God! to thee I leave the rest,
“Thy will be done! Thy will be done!”
4. Renew my will from day to day,
blend it with thine, and take away
all now that makes it hard to say,
“Thy will be done! Thy will be done!”
5. Then when on earth I breathe no more,
the prayer oft mixed with tears before,
I'll sing upon a happier shore,
“Thy will be done! Thy will be done!”

All may be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: We offer prayers of praise to you, the God who creates us, redeems us, and sustains us; the God whose will is perfect, and whose ways are right; the God who calls us to seek God's holy will and faithfully follow after it. In the silence of our hearts, we offer prayers of praise to you:
(Silence)

One: We offer prayers of confession for the ways we have turned from you and abandoned your will through our speech and action; for the harm we have caused through unkind words, selfish deeds, hateful biases, careless actions, and unforgiving responses. In the silence of our hearts, we offer prayers of confession to you:
(Silence)

One: We offer prayers of confession for the ways we have rejected your will in through our silence and inaction; for hindering your will for justice by remaining unmoved in the face of injustice; for frustrating your will for wholeness by remaining unmoved in the face of suffering; for the words yet unsaid and the actions yet undone. In the silence of our hearts, we offer prayers of confession to you:
(Silence)

One: We offer prayers of thanksgiving for faithful examples: for those who have come before us, giving us a powerful model of what it means to seek after your will; for those in our lives and in our midst, who continue to express a deep commitment to your will; for those whose faithfulness inspires us to say, "thy will be done." In the silence of our hearts, we offer prayers of thanksgiving to you:
(Silence)

One: We offer prayers for the body of Christ in its great diversity: for the vital ministries of our local churches, the incredible gifts of laity and clergy, the profound connections of our conference and denomination, and the life-giving witness of the global Church; that your Church may be a place where your will is sought and your Word is made known. In the silence of our hearts, we offer prayers to you:
(Silence)

One: We offer prayers of hope and healing for all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; for all who lack the basic needs of life; for all who cry out in the struggle for justice; and for ourselves, that we may strive to bring about your will for wholeness, justice, and peace. In the silence of our hearts, we offer prayers to you:
(Silence)

One: We gather as your people, humbling ourselves in prayer. We gather as your faithful, seeking your will. We gather as your servants, placing your will above our own. We gather as those who bear the name of Christ, seeking to echo the very prayer of Christ:

All: Not our will, Lord... but your will be done. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION & PARDON

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
You have called us to do your will,
but we have not done your will.
We have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience, ardent perseverance,
and wholehearted faithfulness to your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

OFFERING

As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer our gifts to God's purposes
and our lives to God's will.

Today's offering will benefit laity scholarships through the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Scholarship Fund. Eligible recipients must be full-time students in a program of study in an accredited institution, and must be active members of a United Methodist church for at least two years. You are encouraged to make personal offerings as well as any offerings collected in your own congregation. Together, let us respond to God's grace and make holy use of our resources as we seek to help others realize God's will for their lives.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Through your will, you established a world of beauty and diversity,
Through your word, you created the heavens and the earth,
soaring skies and roaring oceans, living creatures and plants of all kinds.
You created these things and called them "good."
You created humanity in your sacred image,
and breathed into us your sacred breath.

It was your will to choose one people to be your people,
to share in your holy covenant,
and to reveal your will for all people.

When you saw your people Israel oppressed and afflicted,
you revealed your will for freedom and justice.
You made a way through the impassable sea and the hostile wilderness,
and led your people to your promised land.

When your covenant was broken, you called forth prophets
to bring your people to repentance and renewal,
and to reveal, once more, your holy will.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join 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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him to a holy ministry
that expressed your holy will:
a will for justice and compassion,
a will for repentance and reconciliation,
a will for selfless service and unfailing love,
a will for a kingdom of lasting peace.

On that night in the garden, and in the hours that followed,
he demonstrated what it means to fully seek your will.
He prayed, "If you are willing, remove this cup from me;
yet, not my will but your will be done."

Through his death on the cross and his glorious resurrection,
you defeated the powers of sin and death,
You offered us new life, kindled in us a new hope,
established with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit,
and created through us a new covenant community, the Church,
according to your perfect will.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
the one who is the Bread of Life took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over,
the one who would pray “take this cup from me” took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from 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.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us.
We offer ourselves freely to your will and your way,
as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
that we may seek you and your will,
to place it above our own,
and to pray, with Christ, and with one another:
“not my will, but your will be done.”

Pour out your Holy Spirit
on these gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.

The bread which we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

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 at 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 is available; please raise your hand and a communion assistant will bring it to your table. 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.

After all have served one another, the body will stand and join together in singing:

***COMMUNION HYMN – "THIS IS MY SONG"**

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world,
strengthened by your Spirit,
and by the grace in this holy meal,
that we may seek your will
and follow your way.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.
Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

May the love of God, whose will is good and perfect;
the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, with whom and in whom we pray "thy will be done;"
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to follow God's will,
be with you all.

*SENDING FORTH

Now go forth to seek God's will,
to know God's will,
and to do God's will.
Go forth in grace, in power, and in peace.

All: Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN OF RENEWAL – “AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE”

1. As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

WORSHIP NOTES – OPENING WORSHIP

John 6:35-40

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989

“God of Love and God of Power”

Words: Gerald H. Kennedy, ca. 1939

Music: Joachim Neander, 1680

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739

Music: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

“Rise Up, My Friends”

Words M.C. Johnson, 2017. Used by permission.

Music: William H. Walter, 1894

Psalm 40:4-8

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989

Luke 22:39-46

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989

The Darby Bible, 1890 (Public Domain)

“Lead Me, Lord”

Words: Psalm 5:8, 4:8

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1861

“Thy Will Be Done”

Words: Charlotte Elliot, © 2009

Music: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1972

“This Is My Song”

Words: Georgia Harkness, ca. 1939

Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. from *The Hymnal*, 1933

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

Music: Attr. to B.F. White, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978.

Call to Worship, Unison Prayer, Prayers of the People, Benediction, and Sending Forth

Rev. Candy LaBar, 2017

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: Prayer of Confession and Pardon, Great Thanksgiving,
and Communion Prayer

Rev. Candy LaBar, 2017

Retiree Recognition and Service of Blessing

Friday, June 16 – 3:00 PM



PRELUDE

*In the center of each of your tables, you will find small white note cards.
Throughout worship, we invite you to use these note cards to offer a word of blessing.*

*Write a note of thanks to a retiree as today they celebrate their years of faithful ministry.
Write a note of encouragement to an ordinand, commissionee, or full-time licensed local pastor
(newly approved for that status) as today they celebrate this significant day in their ministries.*

*May our notes extend blessings across generations of ministry. Please leave the handwritten cards
in the center of your tables, with the retiree's, ordinand's, commissionee's, or full time licensed local
pastor's name on the front, and volunteers will ensure your cards are delivered.*

Our 2017 Retirees:

*Beverly Turner Andrews, Joy Bagwell, Dr. Frank H. Billman, Susan C. (Sue) Czarnecki, Vincent
James Durbano, Millard Fisher III, Ethel Fullen Guy, Dr. Maxime R. Jaouen, Eva Johnson, Zabdiel
Y. Khan, Sandra Knaub, David M. Lewis, Dorris Ellen McCoy, Mark D. Moore, Robert L.
(Bob) Nissly, Christie Lynn Orr, John T. Pfeil, Evelyn A. Stupp*

Our 2017 Ordinands:

*Nelson Roger Alleman, Tawny Leigh Bernhardt, Richard "Ricky" K. Brown II, Scott Curtis Dorn,
Andrea Michele Haldeman, Shauna K. Ridge*

Our 2017 Commissionees:

*Olivet J.C. Hillhouse Brown, Eric Woodrow Carr, Jr., Christopher David Hardy, Joanne Miles,
Debra A. Neild, Steven Michael Pittman, Marilyn Jean Schneider*

Our 2017 Full-Time Licensed Local Pastors:

Kevin Babcock, Laurie Pfhaler, William Ritzenthaler, Tammie Scalise

THE WITNESS OF THE GENERATIONS THAT HAVE COME BEFORE

*LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

One: God has called us into relationship from the beginning of Creation. As Creation was spoken into being, God called people into covenant and witness.

Many: For the witness of those who came generations before us, whose stories and testimonies helped to spark fires in our hearts, we give God thanks!

One: Each of us serving God can point to those whose lives pointed us towards God.

Many: For the witness of those who faithfully served as our teachers and pastors, our leaders

and encouragers, our forebears and models, whose lives kindled the fire in our imaginations, we give God thanks!

One: God continues to move in our lives today.

Many: For our own witness, which burn in our bellies, we give God thanks!

One: We do not receive faith only for ourselves; we pass it on.

Many: For those who come after us, watching our lives and living our hope, we give God thanks!

SCRIPTURE – PSALM 90

Voice 1: God, it seems you've been our home forever; long before the mountains were born,
Long before you brought earth itself to birth,

Voice 2: from "once upon a time"

Voice 3: to "kingdom come"

Voice 1: you are God.

Voice 2: So don't return us to mud, saying,

Voice 3: "Back to where you came from!"

Voice 2: Patience! You've got all the time in the world—whether a thousand years or a day,
it's all the same to you.

Voice 3: Are we no more to you than a wispy dream, no more than a blade of grass that springs
up gloriously with the rising sun and is cut down without a second thought?

Voice 1: Your anger is far and away too much for us; we're at the end of our rope.

Voice 2: You keep track of all our sins; every misdeed since we were children is entered in your
books. All we can remember is that frown on your face. Is that all we're ever going to get?

Voice 3: We live for seventy years or so (with luck we might make it to eighty),
And what do we have to show for it?

Voice 1: Trouble. Toil and trouble and a marker in the graveyard.

Voice 2: Who can make sense of such rage, such anger against the very ones who fear you?

Voice 3: Oh! Teach us to live well! Teach us to live wisely and well!

Voice 1: Come back, God—how long do we have to wait?— and treat your servants with
kindness for a change.

Voice 2: Surprise us with love at daybreak; then we'll skip and dance all the day long. Make up
for the bad times with some good times; we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.

Voice 3: Let your servants see what you're best at— the ways you rule and bless your children.
And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us, confirming the work that we do.

All Voices: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

*HYMN – "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)

THE WITNESS OF
A GENERATION THAT HAS FAITHFULLY SERVED

SCRIPTURE – 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

Voice 1: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life
that is in Christ Jesus,

Voice 2: To Timothy, my beloved child:

Voice 3: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Voice 1: I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—
when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

Voice 2: Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.

Voice 3: I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois

Voice 1: and your mother Eunice

Voice 2: and now, I am sure, lives in you.

Voice 3: For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the
laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power
and of love and of self-discipline.

Voice 1: Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join
with me in suffering for the gospel,

Voice 2: relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not
according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.

Voice 3: This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been
revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life
and immortality to light through the gospel.

Voice 1: For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this
reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and
I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.

Voice 2: Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and
love that are in Christ Jesus.

Voice 3: Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

CELEBRATING OUR RETIREES

Video Presentation

Retiree Recognition

The Rev. Beverly Turner Andrews
The Rev. Joy Bagwell
The Rev. Dr. Frank H. Billman
The Rev. Susan C. (Sue) Czarnecki
The Rev. Vincent James Durbano
The Rev. Millard Fisher, III
The Rev. Ethel Fullen Guy
The Rev. Dr. Maxime R. Jaouen
The Rev. Eva Johnson
The Rev. Zabdiel Y. Khan
The Rev. Sandra Knaub
The Rev. David M. Lewis
Ms. Dorris Ellen McCoy
The Rev. Mark D. Moore
The Rev. Robert L. (Bob) Nissly
The Rev. Christie Lynn Orr
The Rev. John T. Pfeil
The Rev. Evelyn A. Stupp

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING – “NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”

1. Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.

IN MEMORIAM

One: On this day when we gather to honor the faithful ministries of our retirees, we gather in celebration. Yet on this day, our celebration is bittersweet. One of the retirees we intended to celebrate today is now one of those whose names we will lift, in grief and remembrance, during tomorrow's Memorial Service. In this moment that would have celebrated his retirement, we honor the memory of Rev. Christopher Wollyung.

Video Presentation

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING – “NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

THE WITNESS TO THE COMING GENERATIONS

“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 rising generation of church leaders in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

SCRIPTURE - JOHN 17:18-23

¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

BLESSINGS FOR MINISTRY

One: We invite all who will begin their first appointment or assignment this year to stand and join together to share thanksgiving for those who are retiring, the generation that have served before:

*Those Entering First Appointments: We give thanks to God for all those who have gone before.

May those who are retiring know blessings of having planted seeds in ministry and watched some seeds of ministry come to fruit.

*Retirees: We give thanks to God that you have answered the call to ministry and seek to serve

God and God's people. May generations rise up to know God through you and the faithful witness you inspire in others.

Those beginning their first appointments or assignments may be seated.

All those who have served in appointed/assigned ministry for at least 5 years are invited to stand.

One: As we share together in this odd and wondrous calling to ministry, let us pronounce blessing in our collective lives of ministry. We invite all those who have served in ministry for at least 5 years to join together in sharing their wisdom:

Those serving at least 5 years: We give thanks to God for those who will begin their first appointment or assignment this year. May they know the delight of ministry and the wisdom of a mentor in ministry.

Those who have served in ministry for at least 10 years may remain standing. All others may be seated.

One: We invite those who have served in ministry for at least 10 years to share together their wisdom:

Those serving at least 10 years: We give thanks to God for those who have begun to discover the unique rhythms of their lives in ministry, and who continue to be urged forward by the power of their calling. May they work alongside lay co-laborers to serve communities in need of the lived presence of God's grace.

Those who have served in ministry for at least 25 years may remain standing. All others may be seated.

One: We invite all those who have served in ministry for at least 25 years to share together their wisdom:

Those serving at least 25 years: We give thanks to God for those who have known joy and challenge in their years of ministry. May they seek to raise up new generations of leaders who, in the heart of joy and the face of challenge, will reinvigorate ways of sharing the gospel message across every generation.

Those who have served in ministry for at least 35 years may remain standing. All others may be seated.

One: We invite all those who have served in ministry for at least 35 years to share together their wisdom:

Those serving at least 35 years: We give thanks to God for those who have served faithfully in ministry, participating in lives of faith and witnessing growth – within individuals and across generations. May they finish strong, not discouraged by the seeds that did not take root, but encouraged by all of the strewn seeds of faith that might still take root.

Those who have served in ministry for at least 50 years may remain standing. All others may be seated.

One: We invite all those who have served at least 50 years in ministry to share together their wisdom:

Those serving at least 50 years: We give thanks to God for those who have followed us in ministry, and who now continue to serve God and God's people in new ways. May they share God's word and way, God's grace and generosity, with steadfast commitment through their days.

THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

One: As those retiring have led us, let them lead all clergy in reciting the words of the Wesley Covenant prayer together. We invite all clergy to stand. We invite all laity to remain seated and pray for our clergy as they covenant together.

It has been our tradition for our clergy, during this covenant prayer, to make some gesture of connection – joining hands, placing hands on shoulders, etc. – as they join together in making and renewing this covenant before God.

All Clergy:

**I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.**

SONG OF BLESSING – “BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM”

1. You are salt for the earth, O people,
salt for the city of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain:

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring forth the kingdom of God!

2. You are a light on the hill, O people,
light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the kingdom of God!
(*Refrain*)

3. You are a seed of the word, O people,
bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the kingdom of God!
(*Refrain*)

4. We are the bless'd and a pilgrim people,
bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
love is the kingdom of God!
(Refrain)

***BENEDICTION**

May the God of the generations bless you and keep you,
filling you with the love of Jesus
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
May the blessings of the generations that have come before you
fill you with wisdom and insight.

***SENDING FORTH**

Go forth to serve God.
Bring forth God's kingdom of love and grace,
compassion and mercy,
justice and joy,
across the generations of God's people.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES – RETIREE SERVICE

Psalm 90

The Message paraphrase, © 2002, adapted for multiple voices.

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Music: William M. Runyan, 1923

2 Timothy 1:1-14

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989, adapted for multiple voices.

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858

Music: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

John 17:18-23

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989.

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

Words: Marty Haugen, 1986.

Music: Marty Haugen, 1986.

Litany of Thanksgiving, Blessings for Ministry, Benediction, and Sending Forth written by Rev. Monica Beth Guepet, 2017.

Memorial Service

June 17, 2017 – 10:30 AM



PRELUDE

GATHERING WORDS OF GRACE

(inspired by Psalm 121 and 1 Corinthians 15)

We have gathered here to remember and celebrate the lives of those among us who have risen up to faithfully serve God and God's people, and who now have risen up in glory. Let our hope be found in God's presence with us. In the midst of death, where can we find hope for life abundant? In the midst of grief, where does our help come from? Our hope and help rises up from the Creator of heaven and earth, the Redeemer of all creation, and Sustainer of transformed, imperishable, immortal lives.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN – "CHRIST IS ALIVE"

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.
3. Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.
4. In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*OPENING PRAYER

Tender and Compassionate God, we give you thanks for all of those we name this day. We celebrate their lives, offered in dedication and service. We pray that as they departed in peace, may they rise in glory. Comfort, encourage, and embolden us to live lives that respond to pain with comfort, to despair with hope, and to death with resurrection. Amen.

SCRIPTURE – ISAIAH 40: 28-31

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall rise up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

HYMN OF RESPONSE – “COME, LET US JOIN OUR FRIENDS ABOVE”

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.

*SCRIPTURE – LUKE 2:25-32

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

THE MESSAGE

"Glory Be!"

Bishop Peter Weaver

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

Many: we remember them.

One: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

Many: we remember them.

One: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

Many: we remember them.

One: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

Many: we remember them.

One: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

Many: we remember them.

One: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

Many: we remember them.

One: When we are weary and in need of strength,

Many: we remember them.

One: When we are lost and sick at heart,

Many: we remember them.

One: When we have joys we yearn to share,

Many: we remember them.

One: So long as we live, they too shall live,

**Many: for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Amazing Grace / My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Rev. Sarah Fernsler, harp

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 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.

Rise in Glory

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, district superintendents, and conference lay leader will offer the family members a seed-paper dove. We pray that the new plants that grow from these seeds will serve as a reminder of their loved ones who rise in glory.

To the gathered body: In the center of each of your tables, you will find smaller versions of these seed-paper doves. We invite you to take these seeds with you and plant them at your own homes or churches, that they may serve as a reminder of those who have risen in glory and the God who has raised them up.

To all: Around the worship space, as each section of names is read, we will release dove balloons as we prayerfully remember.

The Names

CLERGY

*Mrs Muriel Mae Allyn, 6/15/16
The Rev. Reid Stroud, 7/2/16
The Rev. Dale Norris Cowan, 7/25/16
Mrs. Lucille Hultsch, 9/21/16
The Rev. John Thomas Buttimer, 10/16/16
The Rev. Russell W Streeper, 12/15/16
The Rev. Sharon Paul, 12/8/16
Mrs. Ellen Khan, 1/23/17
Mrs. Doris Batdorf, 1/23/17
The Rev. Merrill E Graves, 3/11/17
The Rev. Robert E Stauffer, 3/22/17
The Rev. Glenn H. Asquith, 4/5/17
The Rev. James D. Corbett, 4/7/17
The Rev. Joan Spangler, 4/18/17
The Rev. Christopher C. Wollyung, 4/23/17
The Rev. Lane Weller, 5/3/17
Mrs. Diana Whittaker, 4/23/17
Rev. Marjorie Ann Harris, 5/17/2017*

LAITY

Mr. Augustin Franklin Miller, 10/31/16

Mr. Richard A. Griffith, 11/8/16

Mrs. Karen E. Troutman, 1/27/17

BISHOPS

Emerson Stephon Colaw, 10/11/16

Franz Werner Schafer, 7/14/16

Bishop Felton Edwin May, 2/27/17

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE – “ON EAGLE’S WINGS”

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, “My Refuge,
My Rock in Whom I trust.”

And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRIES AND LEGACIES
OF CHURCHES THAT HAVE CLOSED

SCRIPTURE – ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

One: Churches are planted in times of hope when possibilities rise.

Each of these congregations has brought light in the darkness and hope to the hopeless.

Each church has provided refuge, comfort, and challenge for God’s people.

**Many: We give thanks to God for the lives that have been transformed,
the communities that have been shaped,
and the in-breaking of God’s kingdom in these churches.**

One: Rise up, O people of God. Give thanks and remember. God's love remains with us.

Many: We remember and look for where God's love leads us.

**As a people of resurrection, may we look for signs of new life,
even in the midst of death.**

The Tradition

As we gather each year for Annual Conference sessions, we recognize that ministry ends in one location, continues in another, and is birthed in yet another. We give thanks to God for ministry of each congregation. We read aloud the names of churches that have closed. As we read the names and sound the bell, we invite you to stand in honor of churches that you have served or attended.

Rise in Glory

To all those who have worshipped, served, and loved in these churches: We welcome you and offer you our heartfelt condolences. As each church name is read, around the worship space, we will release dove balloons as we prayerfully remember.

CHURCHES

Water Works UMC

Shenandoah: First UMC

Alice Focht Memorial UMC

Siloam UMC

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE – “ON EAGLE’S WINGS”

For to His angels He's given a command,
To guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

*CLOSING PRAYER

Good and Gracious God, in the midst of grief and bittersweet remembrance, we give thanks for those we have remembered today. Make us mindful of the sacred ties that connect us with those who have risen in glory. Help us to be emboldened by their example and reassured by their fellowship. Let us rise up and serve you faithfully, and let us place our hope – our resurrection hope – in the promise that we too will rise in glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

May the love of God who creates,
the hope of Jesus our redeems,
and the peace of the Holy Spirit who sustains
be with you always.

*SENDING FORTH

Go forth to live and love
as those who will rise in service to God and God's people,
that through kingdom living
we may join with all those who gone before. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG OF PRAISE – "HE LIVES"

1. I serve a risen Savior
He's in the world today.
I know that He is living,
Whatever foes may say.
I see His hand of mercy;
I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

Refrain:

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me
I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary,
I never will despair;
I know that He is leading,
Through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing
Will come at last.
(Refrain)

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs
To Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him,
The Help of all who find,
None other is so loving,
So good and kind.
(Refrain)

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES – MEMORIAL SERVICE

“Christ is Alive”

Words: Brian Wren, 1968.

Music: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789.

Isaiah 40: 28-31

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989, adapted

“Come Let Us Join Our Friends Above”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1759

Music: arranged by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

Luke 2: 25-32

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989

“Litany of Remembrance”

Written by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

© by CCAR, published in *Gates of Prayer* (Boston: CCAR Press, 1975)

Special Music: “Amazing Grace / My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Tune: Southern Harmony 1835

Arranged by D. Rees-Rohrbacher, 2001.

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Words: Michael Joncas, 1979

Music: Michael Joncas, 1979, harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1988

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

New Revised Standard Version, © 1989

“He Lives”

Words: Alfred H. Ackley, ca. 1933

Music: Alfred H. Ackley, ca. 1933

Gathering Words of Grace, Opening Prayer, Celebration of Ministries and Legacies, Closing Prayer, Benediction, and Sending Forth

Rev. Monica Beth Guepet, 2017