

EPA Service of Remembrance 2026

PROCESSION

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

For All the Saints (v. 1,2,4&5)

UM Hymnal, 711

VERSE 1

For all the saints who from their labors rest
who there by faith before the world confessed
thy name O Jesus be forever blest
Alleluia Alleluia

VERSE 2

Thou wast their rock their fortress and their might
thou Lord their captain in the well-fought fight
thou in the darkness drear their one true light
Alleluia Alleluia

VERSE 4

O blest communion fellowship divine
We feebly struggle they in glory shine
yet all are one in thee for all are thine
Alleluia Alleluia

VERSE 5

And then the strife is fierce the warfare long
steals on the ear the distant triumph song
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong
Alleluia Alleluia

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Truman Brooks

Leader: We have assembled in this place filled with lament and joy as we remember the service and impact of those who have gone from labor to reward.

People: We affirm that their contributions have been invaluable, and the faith they demonstrated has shaped our ministries.

Leader: Today, we declare that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord and that those who are no longer among us are part of the great cloud of witnesses.

People: As we remember today, may we embody that same faith, determination, strength, and anointing that was present with our ancestors.

Leader: The Ever-Present God has called us to be light, love, and justice workers, just as God has beckoned those who have come before us.

People: As we worship the True and Living God, may we do so with the spirit of praise and worship, but also in the spirit of prayer.

Leader: For it was prayer that Job used to navigate crisis. It was prayer that Jabez used to get through the ebb and flow of life. And, it was prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, dwell among us. Saturate this place with your Spirit, and may we embody the spirit which calls us out of the darkness into the marvelous light.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1-6 (read in English, Spanish & Korean)

Marilyn Mason (East Laity), English
Bryan Cerrano (North Laity), Spanish
Yohan Oh (West Clergy), Korean

Key verse: All who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come, buy food and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk, without money, without price!

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

Gracious and Merciful God, we gather in your presence with hearts that carry memory, love, and longing to remember those who have gone before us. We thank you for trusting us with the essence of your love expressed through their lives. You remind us even in grief, we can seek you and find peace. As we remember their legacy, while pressing on in faith, we are reminded that you are an ever-present help in time of trouble.

As we remember those who have gone before us, be our refuge. When grief rises, be our comfort. When memories overwhelm, be our anchor. Breathe Your Spirit into this sacred space and let this be a time of honoring, healing, and holy reflection.

As we remember their lives, teach us how to live with purpose, love more deeply, and to trust you even when we cannot trace your hands.

We entrust this service and every memory it holds, into the hands of God who never fails. In the name of Jesus, who is our Comforter we pray, Amen.

SONG OF PREPARATION

Trust In God

CCLI Song 7206001

VERSE 1

Blessed assurance
Jesus is mine
He's been my fourth man in the fire
Time after time
Born of His Spirit

Washed in His blood
And what He did for me on Calvary
Is more than enough

CHORUS

I trust in God My Savior
The One who will never fail
God will never fail
I trust in God My Savior
The One who will never fail
God will never fail

VERSE 2

Perfect submission
All is at rest
I know the author of tomorrow
Has ordered my steps
So this is my story
And this is my song
I'm praising my risen King and Savior
All the day long

SCRIPTURE

John 11:21-26

Rev. Robin Hynicka, English
Ms. Theresa Yorgey, ASL Interpreter

Key Verse: "Martha said, 'If you had been here, my brother would never have died!
Yet even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask.'"

PREACHED WORD

Saving A Seat For You!

Rev. Robin Hynicka

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Soloist

Rev. Marcus Simmons,

**CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF THOSE
WHO HAVE ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT**

Conference Secretary: Joong Huyck Kim

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, clergy spouses, and laity with a special connection to the Annual Conference.

We invite you to stand to remember your friends and loved ones. As each name is read, a bell will sound and we invite the family to the table to light your candles, creating a collective light of remembrance. This symbolizes how the lives of those who have passed continue to shine in the community.

CLERGY MEMBERS

<i>Lauren Meiswinkel</i>	<i>12/20/2024</i>
<i>Charles Lobb</i>	<i>1/19/2025</i>
<i>Richard Erisman</i>	<i>4/30/2025</i>
<i>Robert G. Coombe</i>	<i>5/18/2025</i>
<i>Debra J. Schreiber</i>	<i>6/17/2025</i>
<i>William Gary George</i>	<i>8/17/2025</i>
<i>Richard A. Clark</i>	<i>8/19/2025</i>
<i>Dale E. Owens</i>	<i>9/13/2025</i>
<i>John W. Pratt</i>	<i>9/13/2025</i>
<i>Dave P. Bergstrom</i>	<i>9/21/2025</i>
<i>Lester Groves</i>	<i>9/22/2025</i>
<i>James Elliott Jr.</i>	<i>9/27/2025</i>
<i>George A. Tigh</i>	<i>10/23/2025</i>
<i>Connie L. Asquith</i>	<i>11/16/2025</i>
<i>Doyle Sumner</i>	<i>12/8/2025</i>
<i>Richard L. Hostetter</i>	<i>12/28/2025</i>
<i>Lawrence W. Althouse</i>	<i>3/5/2026</i>
<i>John G. McElhenney</i>	<i>3/7/2026</i>
<i>John T. Wright</i>	<i>3/20/2026</i>
<i>Ronald H. Stott</i>	<i>3/26/2026</i>

CLERGY SPOUSES

<i>Lynn M. Murphy</i>	<i>8/5/2024</i>
<i>Wilbur Hartranft</i>	<i>8/7/2025</i>
<i>Linda R. Wolfe</i>	<i>12/17/2025</i>
<i>Sharyn E. McNair</i>	<i>1/27/2026</i>
<i>Rona M. Wolfe</i>	<i>3/5/2026</i>
<i>Florence Basehore</i>	<i>4/26/2026</i>

LAITY WITH A SPECIAL CONNECTION TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

<i>John Boyer, CSM Emeritus</i>	<i>5/2/2025</i>	<i>Colombia UMC (West)</i>
<i>Marilyn Smith, CSM</i>	<i>5/4/2025</i>	<i>Lebanon: Trinity UMC (West)</i>
<i>Alice K. Huey, UMW/UMF</i>	<i>6/23/2025</i>	<i>Allentown: Asbury UMC, (North)</i>
<i>Elaine Wolf, CSM</i>	<i>7/13/2025</i>	<i>Shoemakersville: Salem UMC (North)</i>
<i>Mildred Lilly, CSM Emeritus</i>	<i>8/5/2025</i>	<i>Phila: Haven Peniel (East)</i>
<i>Carol Peters, CSM Emeritus</i>	<i>8/24/2025</i>	<i>Allentown: Asbury UMC, (North)</i>
<i>Mary Fox, CSM, Lay Supply</i>	<i>11/29/2025</i>	<i>Meed's Memorial, Nesquehoning (North)</i>
<i>Janna D. Kratz, UMW/UWF</i>	<i>2/1/2026</i>	<i>Allentown: Asbury UMC, (North)</i>
<i>James Kenneth Giko</i>	<i>2/25/2026</i>	<i>Phila: Berry Long UMC (South)</i>
<i>Bill Matthews Jr., CSM Emeritus</i>	<i>3/18/2026</i>	<i>Scottville UMC (East)</i>
<i>Bettye J. Hill, Lay Speaker Emeritus</i>	<i>4/18/2026</i>	<i>Phila.: Mt Zion UMC (East)</i>

BISHOPS AND SPOUSES

<i>Bishop Violet L. Fisher</i>	<i>11/17/2025</i>
<i>Bishop José Gamboa, Jr.</i>	<i>12/22/2025</i>
<i>Rev. Eugénio Tomás Mbulo</i>	<i>12/3/2025</i>

SONG

Harvest of Love

(Words by Laurie Zelman and Music by Mark Miller)

VERSE 1

In our sorrow we journey head down,
in our sorrow we journey head down,
in the dust of defeat
with our hearts at our feet,
we are planting our seeds in the ground,
we are planting our seeds in the ground.

VERSE 2

May we offer our lives as the ground,
may we offer our lives as the ground.
Now our fears we forsake;
let the seeds stir and wake.
May they grow in the peace that we've found,
may they grow in the peace that we've found.

REFRAIN

It's a mystery; who knows
how the harvest grows,
with our hands and our tears in the soil?

From the ground, feel it rise,
filled with joy and surprise
till the laughter like water flows,
till the laughter like water flows.

VERSE 3

So give thanks and rejoice at the sound,
so give thanks and rejoice at the sound,
for the song rises still
and our arms, God will fill,
oh, the harvest of love will astound,
yes, the harvest of love will astound!

REFRAIN

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRIES AND LEGACIES OF CHURCHES THAT HAVE CLOSED

Dean of the Cabinet, Andrew L. Foster III

This is a day not just of remembering but honoring. In this moment, we pause to give thanks to God for the ministries and legacies of churches that have closed. These churches are not just buildings but memories, each with its own voice, its unique sound, and its special design.

Yet, we are united by connectionalism, which draws us closer. Some of our churches are rural, suburban, or urban. Yet, they each bring their own stories that have contributed to the larger witness of Eastern Pennsylvania.

As you hear the names of the various churches being read, we invite you to stand, whether you were a member, a friend, or someone whose life was touched by this ministry. You are the essence that brings joy to God's heart. Together, we remember the ministries, legacies, and impact that have transformed our communities and our world.

CHURCHES:

Phila: Somerton UMC
Lighthouse Korean UMC (Glenside)
Minersville: First UMC
Kemblesville UMC

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

HYMN

Hymn of Promise (v. 1-2)

UM Hymnal, 707

VERSE 1

In the bulb there is a flower

in the seed an apple tree
in cocoons a hidden promise
butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be
unrevealed until its season
something God alone can see

VERSE 2

There's a song in every silence
seeking word and melody
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me
From the past will come the future
what it holds a mystery
unrevealed until its season
something God alone can see

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.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the gift of life.

You called us not only to believe,
but to serve and to remember;
not only to follow,
but to embrace the journey of becoming.

You have been with us
in seasons of joy and in moments of uncertainty.
When wars began, your love sustained us.
When we celebrated baptisms and new beginnings,
and when we stood at gravesides,
bearing witness to grief and hope held together.

When we were uncertain,
You remained faithful.
When we were tired,
You did not turn away.
Again and again,
You met us with grace.

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 Jesus Christ.

In Jesus, you came near
not as one removed from human struggle,
but as one who knew exhaustion, compassion,
and the cost of loving deeply.

Jesus gathered people at tables,
fed the hungry,
taught with authority rooted in humility,
and entrusted ordinary people
with extraordinary grace.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he 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,
he 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,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

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

Renew us where we are weary.
Strengthen us where we are discouraged.
Remind us that we do not serve alone,
but through you.

By your Spirit,
bind us together in compassion and trust,
restore our joy in the work you have given us to do,
and send us from this table
ready to love boldly, ready to remember those who have paved the way before us.
and to embrace our call to serve joyfully,
and lead courageously.

Through Christ,
with Christ,
in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

*Let Us Break Bread Together (UMH 618);
Bless the Lord My Soul (TFWS 2013);
Sólo tú eres santo/You Alone Are Holy (TFWS 2077)*

Let Us Break Bread Together

UMH 618

Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me*

*Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me*

Bless the Lord My Soul

TFWS 2013

*Bless the Lord my soul
and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord my soul
who leads me into life*

*Sólo Tú Eres Santo/You Alone Are Holy
2077*

TFWS

VERSE 1

*Solo tú eres santo Solo tú eres digno
Tú eres hermoso y maravilloso
En la cruz moriste y resucitaste
Tú me diste vida y muy pronto volverás*

*You alone are holy you alone are worthy
you are filled with splendor
and with awesome wonder
For our sins you suffered
died and resurrected
granting us salvation*

giving us eternal life

VERSE 2

*Solo tú eres santo solo tú eres digno
tú eres hermoso y maravilloso
Derrama tu Espíritu y que tu luz brille
que tu gloria llene ahora mismo este lugar*

*You alone are holy you alone are worthy
you are filled with splendor
and with awesome wonder
Send your Holy Spirit
may it shine upon us
Let your wondrous glory
with its radiance fill this place*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

BENEDICTION

Bishop Cynthia Moore-

Koikoi

Written by Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett

It's time to go.
It's time to leave this place
that has molded us and shaped us,
framed us in an image only a divine eye can see.
It's time to follow the open road,
to follow where it takes us,
into a world where anything is possible.
It's time to arrive on shores we have never seen before,
and to make our place there,
confident that we are beloved,
just as we are,
and that this Fierce Love will sustain us, regardless.
It's time to go.
Go in faith.
Go in love.
Go in peace.

CLOSING/RECESSIONAL HYMN

All My Days

Worship & Song, 3011

VERSE 1

You know my words before they're said
You know my need and I am fed
You give me life You know my ways
my strength my path for all my days
my strength my path for all my days

VERSE 2

If I should fly beyond the dawn
the darkness will not overcome
If I lie down in deepest night
still you are there my Lord my light
still you are there my Lord my light

VERSE 3

Our every thought each word we say
the whole of time the present day
are held within your mighty hand
too wonderful to comprehend
too wonderful to comprehend

VERSE 4

O mend my heart and free my voice
From sin released I will rejoice
O search me Lord my spirit cries
and let my song of praise arise
and let my song of praise arise

ENDING

Hallelujah Hallelujah
(All my days)