

Evening Worship

Historic Questions and Retirement Service

Thursday, June 7, 2018 ❖ 7:30 pm



Acts 2:43 - A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles.

† signifies that all are invited to rise in body, mind, or spirit

GATHERING MUSIC

Prelude and Fugue in D Major

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from A Prayer Attributed to Blessed Oscar Romero)

(responsive)

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter in and to do the rest.

We may not see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and a worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Selah!

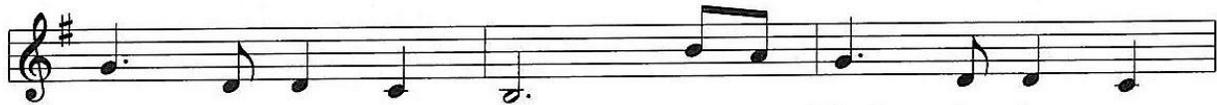
SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 3:1-14a (ESV)

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."



1. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 3. "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was
 5. "In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too
 7. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



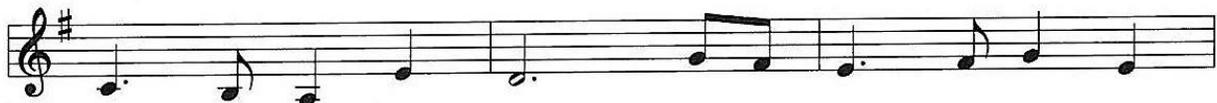
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold."



2. I was there when you were but a child, with a
 4. If you find some - one to share your time and you
 6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY:

Celebrating the Call of Those Now Available for Appointment through Licensing

(Those who successfully completed Pastoral Ministry Licensing School this year, please rise and move to the aisle closest to your seat. All those who would bless these persons, please outstretch your hand to show them your support and prayers.)

God has called your names, and you have shown courage by lifting your head and heart toward God's will. Your "yes" will bring with it many blessings. May the blessings of your work, play, and life be a light to the world. May God grant you the patience, endurance, and grace required of those who choose to spend their life perfecting the church in love. Now available for appointment, you carry the sacredness of your call wherever you go. May you remember this call on good and difficult days alike. May you grow in kindness and wisdom, and may all your days be spent in the joy of service to God.

All: Amen.

(Those who have moved to the aisles return to seats.)

SCRIPTURE

Numbers 27:12-23 (ESV)

The LORD said to Moses, "Go up this mountain of the Abarim range, and see the land that I have given to the Israelites. When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled with me. You did not show my holiness before their eyes at the waters." (These are the waters of Meribath-kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint someone over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep without a shepherd." So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him; have him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. You shall give him some of your authority, so that all the congregation of the Israelites may obey. But he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the decision of the Urim before the LORD; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the Israelites with him, the whole congregation." So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation; he laid his hands on him and commissioned him—as the LORD had directed through Moses.

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORIC QUESTIONS

God has blessed, is blessing and will bless the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church with extraordinary people. Tonight, we mark milestones along the journey, each its own beginning, for those who seek to give their hearts and service to God.

Of those women and men beginning their service to our church, we will ask questions which come from Mr. Wesley. These questions have been asked of all clergy who have served our church. Those entering a retired relationship may well remember these questions. Those who know what it takes to answer these questions with your words and actions, we ask you to take this time to pray for those just beginning their work. For those looking forward to new careers in ministry we ask you to pray for the wisdom and power of those who go before you. We ask all present to pray for the church, that it may be a place of grace and a force of peace.

(All those being commissioned and ordained, come forward to the chancel rail.)

THE HISTORIC QUESTIONS

(the candidates respond)

The examination of candidates for membership is a historic action of the Annual Conference. In accordance with the usage and Discipline of The United Methodist Church and the traditions of our community, and in the presence of this Conference, I ask you:

Have you faith in Christ?

I have.

Are you going on to perfection?

I am, by the grace of God.

Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?

God willing, I do.

Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?

With God's help, I am.

Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?

I am so resolved.

Do you know the General Rules of our Church?

I do.

Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?

I will so endeavor.

Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?

I have studied them.

After full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?

I believe that they are.

Will you preach and maintain them?

To the best of my ability, I will.

Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?

I have.

Do you approve our Church government and polity?

I do so approve.

Will you support and maintain them?

I will, with God's help.

Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?

I will.

Will you visit from house to house?

This is my commitment.

Will you recommend fasting and abstinence, both by precept and example?

I will so recommend.

Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?

This is my intention.

Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?

I am not.

Will you observe the following directions? Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience sake.

The Lord being my helper, I will.

Let us pray:

(congregation in unison)

Almighty God, bless all participants of ministry. We hear you calling our names and we are ready. As your hands and feet, heart and soul on earth, we rejoice in the variety of ways you have called us. Pour out grace for all, and give special patience, courage, and wisdom to those we have recognized here so that we may all care for one another. Grant them strength of body, mind and spirit for the fulfillment of your will that they may be generous stewards of the ministry committed to them. For the glory of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(After answering the Historic Questions, those being ordained and commissioned return to their seats.)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Thank My God

J. Aaron McDermid

Unison



1. What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
 3. Give thanks for to-mor-row, full of surprises,
 4. This gift we now bring, this present, this token,

What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
 who planted and watered so dreams could come true.
 for knowing what-ever to-mor-row may bring,
 these words can convey it, the joy of this day!

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
 Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
 the Word is our promise always, for-ever;
 When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,

what song can we offer in honor and praise?
 for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.
 we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.
 this song we now offer in honor and praise!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Timothy 1:3-12 (ESV)

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Just as God directed Moses, tonight you return to the very place many of your journeys began, in order to celebrate the ways in which you have answered God's call with your words and actions. We come here to give thanks for the new direction your call will take in retirement, and to bless you on your way.

As each name is called, the retiree (and spouse) comes to the chancel. Each retiree will be given a certificate, a pin, and a globe candle to be used in their personal prayer time. The globe symbolizes the continuing connection to the Conference. A globe candle will be given to each church later during Annual Conference.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

Jimmy D. Adkins

Timothy J. Allen

Gus Anderson, Jr.

Vera C. Archer

Michael T. Bradfield

J. Montgomery Brown

Philip R. Dent

Sharon Dietze

Michael K. Funkhouser

Charles Furbee

Steve L. Grimes

Charlene Hamrick

George E. Hamrick, Jr.

Janet M. Harman

Hal Jesse Hevener

H. Thomas Hill

Stephen Inman

C. Richard Justice

Gerald M. Kincaid, Jr.

Kerry Lilly

Thomas Marsh

Donald S. Maxson

Rose Marie (Jo) McCartney

Barry R. Moll

Franklin J. Naglic, Sr.

Gary E. Nelson

Richard H. Sale

Brenda E. Shreve

Judy R. Vetter

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4. Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav - en - ly Kings, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav - en - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Em -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and
 heav - en - ly King may speak their joys a - broad, may
 heav - en - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to
 thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur -
 speak their joys a - broad, may speak their
 walk the gold - en streets, to walk the
 fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er

Refrain

thus sur - round the throne.
 speak their joys a - broad.
 walk the gold - en streets.
 fair - er worlds on high.

round the throne.
 joys a - broad.
 gold - en streets.
 worlds on high.

beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on; we're march - ing up - ward to

Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.
 Zi - on, Zi - on, the

THANKSGIVING FOR MINISTRY ALONG THE WAY

(responsive)

Leader: As the Vicar of Christ, we are called to be faithful. God is the One Who controls whether or not our words fall to the ground.

Those being Licensed, Commissioned and Ordained: We may not see the results of the words we use – or the lives that we lead. Indeed, there may be times where it seems like the perennial fights over the use of the kitchen, the kind of music being played and sung (and who gets to pick it), and the other prickly bush business of the local and district and conference church are all for naught.

Leader: But remember, you were called. And I was called. And at that time, we had an insurmountable compulsion and reason to say: “Speak, O Lord, for Your servant is listening,” and to say “Behold the servant of the Lord; let it be done unto me according to Your Word.” My sisters and brothers in Christ, you came to us from congregations where the Spirit of the Lord was upon you; and you were charged to preach to the brokenhearted, to visit the captive, to anoint those who were bruised. These things you have done.

Congregation: We thank God for the community of the faithful in which the Word of God found response. Countless persons have depended on you for help. In the providence of God, you know that both suffering and joy can be God’s way of teaching and healing.

Leader: At your ordination or appointment, you received authority to do a variety of things, based upon your calling: to read the Holy Scriptures in the church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, to do works of justice ministry, to Order the life of the Church. By God’s grace you did many things that seemed to be beyond your power.

Congregation: We thank God that you were given the vision to be faithful. Death and illness have not come on schedule. The truth has not always been easy to preach. We know something of the grace by which you have lived, and we thank God for your vision.

Leader: Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you. Continue to be true to your calling. May God’s love and power be with you always.

Congregation: God of grace, you fill your servants with the vision. You empower your servants with your Spirit. We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered, and will minister, through them. Give them a sense of your abiding presence, that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Bishop: You and I have each received an awesome call, an incredible responsibility, and a power that is more than we can ask or even imagine. Thanks be to God.

I leave you with this Native American Blessing:

May the Lord disturb you and trouble you,
may the Lord set an impossible task before you
and dare you to meet it.

May the Lord give you strength to do your best
and then – but only then –
may you be granted the Lord’s Peace
and free you for joyful obedience.

So be it. Shalom. Amen.

(At this time, a number of elders retiring equal to the number of elders being ordained will step forward and remove from their shoulders a personal stole and place it into the outstretched hands of an elder to be ordained on Sunday.)

y son - rien - do has di - cho mi nom - bre;
and while smil - ing have spoken my name;
en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;
now my boat's left on the shore - line be - hind me;
jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú necesitas mis manos,
mi cansancio que a otros descansen,
amor que quiera seguir amando.
Estríbillo

4. Tú, pescador de otros mares,
ansia eterna de almas que esperan,
amigo bueno, que así me llamas.
Estríbillo

3. You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.
Refrain

4. You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.
Refrain

Unisono (Unison)
1. Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla,
2. Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go;
1. Lord, you have come to the lake - shore
2. You know so well my pos - ses - sions;
no has bus - ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos,
en mi bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das,
look - ing nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones;
my boat car - ries no gold and no weap - ons;
tan só - lo quie - res que yo te si - ga.
you on - ly asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
you will find there my nets and la - bor.
Estríbillo (Refrain)
Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos
O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,

† BENEDICTION and SENDING FORTH

(responsive)

One being Commissioned: Here I am, Lord. Send me.

One being Ordained: And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rest upon us.

One Retiring: Go forth to where God is calling you next with boldness and joy.

Congregation: Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

Finale from Symphony No. 1

L. Vierne

(Please be seated and continue in a spirit of worship while music is playing.)

NOTES:

The globe candles presented to the retirees in this worship, and which will be presented to each congregation later during Annual Conference, were provided by the gift of two anonymous donors to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc., for the purpose of giving a physical image of the light of Christ, and of that which binds us all together in, as Mr. Wesley called it: *the blessed connection*.

Liturgists:

Rod Blackstone
Charles E. Hicks
Bree Moll
Earnest Watkins
William H. Wilson, Board of Ordained Ministry Retirement Liaison
Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
Kristi Wilkerson

Music Directors:

Craig Hinchman
Julie Janisch

Musicians:

Conference Choir
Zachary Allen, organ