

Evening Worship Prayer Service

Saturday, June 9, 2018 ❖ 7:30 pm



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

GATHERING MUSIC

Deep River with Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry
arr. Lloyd Larson

GATHERING STATEMENT

John Wesley said that, "God's command to 'pray without ceasing' is founded on the necessity we have of [God's] grace to preserve the life of God in the soul, which can no more subsist one moment without it, than the body can without air." Prayer is not something we do for a moment, it is a way of life that invites us into a constant encounter with God. It is an invitation to experience the presence of God in all of life - in our work, our leisure, and our rest. It is an invitation to know, and have the most intimate aspects of our lives be known by, God.

† OPENING PRAYER

(unison)

Holy One, you are the God who speaks and listens; the One who invites us to pour out our hearts before your throne of mercy. You summon us into a life of prayer in all that we do, yet the chaos of a noisy world creates obstacles in listening to the voice of the one who calls us by name. Gather us into your presence, so that our lives may be made richer by your grace. Remind us of the deep love you have for us, as we consider the ways in which our lives have: encountered your presence, been called by your voice, and been led in the pathways of discipleship for your kingdom's sake. Amen.

~ ENCOUNTER ~

GOD IS ENCOUNTERED

1 Samuel 3:1-9 (NIV)

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Words: Verses 1-3 - Julie Janisch, 2018
Verse 4 - John E. Bode, ca. 1866

A Voice to Me Is Calling

Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

1. A voice to me is call - ing; it sounds so ve - ry near. The voice is quite in -
 2. The Lord now stands be - fore me. God's voice to me is clear. "Speak, Lord, your ser - vant
 3. Praise God for all our bless - ings! Your gifts to us a - maze! Praise God, all earth - ly
 4. O Je - sus, I have pro - mised to serve thee to the end; be thou for - ev - er,

sis - tent; I an - swer, "I am here." Not sure who I've en - coun - tered, I
 lis - tens; I long to tru - ly hear. Your Word makes ears to tin - gle and
 crea - tures! You guide us all our days! Praise God, whose pow'r up - lifts us! Our
 near me, my Mas - ter and my friend. I shall not fear the bat - tle if

seek out wise ad - vice. "The Lord to you is call - ing; please lis - ten to God's voice."
 hearts to heed your call. I want to be your ser - vant and spread God's love to all."
 voi - ces join in praise! Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it! Our al - le - lu - ias raise!
 thou art by my side, nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.

~ CALL ~

GOD CALLS DISCIPLES

1 Samuel 3:10-11 (NIV)

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle.

SHARING GOD'S WORD

Karl Barth

FLUTE SOLO

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel L. Schutte
arr. Joel Raney

SHARING GOD'S WORD

Ann Hammond

† CONFESSION, ASSURANCE, PARDON
(*responsive*)

Gracious God, we confess that there are times when we hear you calling out our names in the stillness of the night, yet we pretend to not hear you.

Listen with patience and forgive us we pray.

We confess that, at times, we would rather not hear you than to hear you and be moved to action.

Listen with patience and forgive us we pray.

We confess that fear wells up within us when we encounter your presence because encountering you leads us into a changed and transformed life.

Listen with patience and forgive us we pray.

Grant us courage to trust in your faithfulness in and through all things.

Speak, God, your children are listening.

Grant us courage to hear your voice when you call out our names.

Speak, God, your children are listening.

Grant us courage to follow you—no matter the cost—believing that our lives are made whole when we live out your calling for us.

Speak, God, your children are listening.

Friends, trust that God's grace flows freely and generously. Believe that God's mercy covers us always. Have faith that God pardons the guilty, sets free the oppressed, and offers life to the lifeless.

Glory be to God! Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

You Are Mine

David Haas and Mark Hayes

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE

A Voice to Me Is Calling
(*music score printed on page 42*)

verse 3

~ DISCIPLESHIP ~

GOD EQUIPS

1 Samuel 3:19-4:1a (NIV)

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. And Samuel's word came to all Israel.

THANKSGIVING FOR DISCIPLESHIP-MAKING PATHWAYS

(responsive)

God, you have called disciples throughout time.
 You have called the imperfect, the unwilling, and the doubter.
 You have called the obedient and the wise.
 You have called Abraham, Moses, and Deborah,
 Mary, Elizabeth, John, Peter, Paul and Prisca.
 You called them to be disciples and to grow disciples.

Now, your presence calls to us again;
In prayer we hear your call.

In prayer we encounter the gift of grace,
 And hear your desire to come and follow you.
Thank you, God, for your steadfast love.

Thank you for creating pathways of growth,
 So that we may remember who and whose we are.
 Thank you for inspiring those citizen saints before us,
 So that we could become the kingdom people this world requires.
 Thank you for giving us hearts capable of great compassion
 So that we can share our journey with others.
 Thank you for giving church communities
 In which the gifts are cultivated: worship, hospitality, obedience, service, generosity and faith.
Thank you, God, for the ways you grow us up.

Thank you for those programs and those books, those mentors, and those Bible studies, those pathways and systems which lead to greater discipleship. We are grateful, O God, for opportunities in our Conference like: After the Altar Call, Membership to Discipleship, the Lay Mobilization Institute, the Radical Discipleship Academy, Charting the Course, and Rally on the Mountain, among others.

But we know, O God, that discipleship isn't just about programs. Discipleship starts in our homes and is grown in our churches. Discipleship is about the habits, attitudes, and skills we learn in church and practice in our communities. We lift up the life of the local church and pray your blessing on our ministries.

Help us be disciples. Help us grow disciples.

PRAYER FOR INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS YET TO BE

(responsive)

Holy God, we are grateful for those opportunities which bring us into closer connection with you, but we know that the Spirit is still at work. Bless those discipleship pathways which have yet to be.

May the Spirit spark in us holy creativity, so that we can be the spiritual breath of fresh air Christ leads us to be. Help us carry the wisdom of your ancient church into innovative channels of growth. Give us the tools and the strength we need to discover, develop, and deploy spiritual leaders in this world.

A call is being born tonight for all those ways we will make disciples in the next year.

Help us hear it. Help us see it. Help us heed it. Amen.

A BLESSING FOR UNITY

God, bless these vessels. Help us to remember that though they travel to many places, there is only one light—the light of love you kindled at the beginning of creation. You have entrusted that light to each of us.

Because of that light, we are a community of Spirit-driven people. Tonight we pray for one another and all the communities we represent. Help us be ambassadors of this great light of love, so that all who darken the doors of our churches may be filled with peace and inspired to discipleship. Amen.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

As you leave this evening we would like one lay person from each church to find the table outside assigned to your district. Please take the lamp provided for your church. As a symbol of unity we encourage you to display the lamp in a prominent place in your sanctuary, knowing that your sister churches carry the same light. Pray for one another when the lamp is lit, and remember that God's presence inspires us all to greater growth in love and peace.

Go forth to grow as disciples and to grow disciples, so that the church may be a place of unity and light in the name of the Holy Trinity. Amen.

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2. I want to see the brightness of God.
 3. I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear Sun of Right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The
 night and the day are both a - like. The
 Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

NOTES:

The globes presented to the churches of the West Virginia Conference and to this year's retiring class are gifted by 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*.

Globes were purchased at <http://www.fireflyfuel.com/cart/glass-oil-candles/bliss-petite-oil-candle/> for additional globes or oil.

Liturgists:

Micah Blanks
Gavin Brandenburg
Jarrod Caltrider
Dustin McCune
Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
Jenny Williams
Krysta Rexrode Wolfe

Testimonials:

Karl Barth, Avery UMC, Morgantown
Ann Hammond, United Methodist Temple, Clarksburg

Music Directors:

Craig Hinchman
Julie Janisch

Musicians:

Conference Choir
Angela Jones, flute

RESOURCES

Christians who celebrate the Eucharist together are called to remember into the future. The Body of Christ throughout history has used the beauty of earned wisdom to move into the unknown gifts of tomorrow's Church. This year, as we celebrate fifty bold years of ministry in the United Methodist Church, we are seeking innovative ways to continue the ancient work of God.

The best tools we have to hold together our traditions and our generative work are the tools of faith: worship, sacrament, reading scripture, and prayer, among others. This year the Annual Conference Worship Team intentionally engaged these tools throughout our time together. Now we invite you to continue visiting these powerful tools at home.

Below we have included a list of resources we used to create the worship services and prayer stations. We have also included some of the resources we use in our own discipleship. We hope you find these as life giving as we have found them.

Digital Resources

- <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/>
- <https://heatherplett.com/2014/10/make-inexpensive-portable-labyrinth/>
- “Pray As You Go” app

Books

- Claiborne, S.; Wilson Hartgrove, J., Okoro, E (2010). *Common prayer: A liturgy for ordinary radicals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Foster, R. (2002). *Prayer: Finding the heart's true home*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers.
- Vincent, K. (2013). *A bead and a prayer: A beginner's guide to protestant prayer beads*. Nashville, TN: The Upper Room, a ministry of GBOD.

Conference Choir Anthems - Ordering Information

All Are Welcome – Marty Haugen

GIA Publications G-4166

Celebrate the Day – Pepper Choplin

Beckenhorst Press BP2087; Brass and Percussion Score and Parts BP2087A

God, the Spirit, Lives Within Us – Lloyd Larson

Lorenz 10/4704L; Brass and Percussion Score and Parts 30/3289L

How Clear is our Vocation, Lord – Fred Pratt Green & Kevin Hildebrand

Concordia Publishing House 98-3671

I Thank My God – J. Aaron McDermid

Morning Star Music MSM-50-6078

Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care – Carl Schalk

Augsburg Publishing 0-8006-4590-1

One World, One Communion – Pepper Choplin

Hope Publishing C 6113; Flute part included; Percussion Parts C 6113P

You Are Mine – David Haas & Mark Hayes

Hope Publishing C 5683; Flute part included