

Annual Conference 2023 Worship Book



**Proclaim peace,
bring Good News!**
Isaiah 52:7

2023 Annual Conference
West Virginia Area
The United Methodist Church

June 8-11, 2023
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Sandra Steiner Ball, Resident Bishop



Worship Team Welcome

Greetings from the Annual Conference worship team. We are glad to be with you at West Virginia Wesleyan College. Our team is privileged to create meaningful worship services for the people of the West Virginia Annual Conference. Our hope is that we are able to facilitate worship which can refresh ministry and mission in our Conference area.

Worship is a powerful declaration that God is in the midst of all that is happening in our world today. Worship is a profound point of connection which reminds the Church that we are a beloved and forgiven community called to proclaim peace and bring good news to a weary world. Worship together is a vital part of our work.

Our 2023 session theme—*Proclaim Peace, Bring Good News*—comes straight from the prophet Isaiah, whose people had survived a traumatic exile, had fought for their identity, and had waited for God to intervene in their troubles. The prophet calls them to arise, and to stay poised for God’s instructions. It is in that moment, the people see the feet of the messenger who brings a victorious word—the people of God will go on, God has not abandoned them. In fact, God plans to equip them to sing, to have joy, to return home.

We, too, need to hear the prophet’s words. Arise. Stay poised. God is with us. We are called to depart from our gathering as vessels of God’s saving grace.

In an effort to help you see how we designed worship, and, in the hopes you will be able to use elements of our worship in your local church, we have included margin notes. The margin notes provide hymn histories, liturgical rubrics, theological reflections, and important citations. We give thanks for all those who worked diligently to bring this resource to you, and pray that it will be a blessing for you and your community in the future.

Abbreviations:

TFWS - The Faith We Sing
UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal
W&S - Worship and Song Book
URWB - Upper Room Worship Book

Special Thanks

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Our Offerings

During the 2023 Annual Conference Session, all funds collected at various worship services and received online through June 30th, 2023, will be all totaled together and distributed evenly to the following three ministries:

**Africa University Tractor Fund: Africa University,
Dig Deep Appalachia Water Project: identified in 2022 AC Water Resolution
The Reparations Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia**

Methods of Giving to the 2023 Annual Conference Offering Fund:

INDIVIDUALS / BUSINESSES – GIFTS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Offerings will be collected during worship sessions throughout the Annual Conference Session. Please keep in mind that all checks need to be made payable to WV Conference Treasurer. No specific designations should be provided on the memo line since all cash and checks will go into one fund and will be distributed evenly to the above three ministries.

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS – THROUGH ONLINE GIVING

Anyone who wishes to donate toward the Annual Conference Offering Fund can do so starting now through the end of the day Thursday, June 30th. Please see the detailed step by step instructions shown below.

CHURCH GIFTS

Churches may join in to give until June 30th by mailing a Church Remittance Form along with a check made payable to WV Conference Treasurer. On the remittance form, please indicate "2023 Annual Conference Offering Fund". This allows credit to be given to your church on your monthly statement.

If you have any questions regarding donations or if you encounter technical issues with giving online, please notify Paula Koontz, Receipts Specialist, at pkoontz@wvumc.org, 1-800-788-3746, Ext 40 OR Myra Bess, Controller, at mbess@wvumc.org, 1-800-788-3746, Ext 38

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE DONATIONS

Go To <https://wvumcweb.mysbelby.org/default.aspx?page=3361>, or use the QR code.



AFRICA UNIVERSITY TRACTOR FUND

Your generous support will provide much needed equipment to assist the education of future farmers and leaders attending Africa University!

**AFRICA UNIVERSITY: CELEBRATING
30 YEARS OF MINISTRY!**



CLEAN WATER FOR SOUTHERN COALFIELDS

The decline of community populations in southern West Virginia have left many families without access to clean water and adequate wastewater treatment.

Your generous support will enable us to partner with Dig Deep, UMCOR and others to bring clean water to people living in our southern most counties. Thank you for your support!

Held in trust by the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, proceeds from the West Virginia Reparations Fund will be used for projects relating to reparations to the African American community.



GIVE
IN PERSON
OR ONLINE AT
WVUMC.ORG

2023 Annual Conference
West Virginia Area
The United Methodist Church

Opening Worship with Communion

Thursday, June 8, 2023 ❖ 1:00 pm

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

Gathering Music

We are Singing for the Lord is Our Light,

Siyahamba

O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink

Dale Wood

† Processional Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Processional Hymn:
Processional Hymns are at the beginning of a service, when a group of those participating, such as clergy or the choir, walk in during the hymn, often following behind a processional cross carried by a “crucifer.” “Lift High the Cross” is often sung as an Easter hymn, especially as its lyrics bring to mind Christ’s triumph over death in his resurrection.

Musical score for the hymn "Lift High the Cross" in 4/4 time. The score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. 1. Come Christians follow this triumphant sign. The 2. Each new born ser-vant of the Cru-cified bears 3. O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree, as 4. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be: Praise hosts of God in u-ni-ty com-bine. on the brow the seal of him who died. thou hast prom-ised, draw the world to thee. to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!"

Call to Worship:

The call to worship, often the first invitation for those gathered to join their voices together, is designed to help introduce the focus of the time together and usher us into an attitude of worship.

Scripture: Our theme for annual conference this year is “Proclaim peace, bring Good News!” which came out of this reading from the prophet Isaiah. In Isaiah, the people of God had been through a traumatic event, and, coming out of it, wanted to know what came next. Isaiah gives the people a vision—they are to proclaim peace and bring good news.

† Call to Worship

Reader 1: How beautiful on the mountains,

Reader 2: the beautiful mountains

Reader 3: beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news,

Reader 4: Good News!

Reader 1: Beautiful are those who proclaim peace,

Reader 2: who bring good tidings,

Reader 3: who proclaim salvation,

Reader 4: who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

All: Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.

When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

Reader 1: Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted the people,

Reader 2: God has redeemed Jerusalem.

Reader 3: Comforted! And Redeemed!

Reader 4: The Lord’s holy arm will be laid bare in the sight of all the nations,

All: and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Reader 1: Depart, depart, go out from there!

Reader 2: Touch no unclean thing!

Reader 3: Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the articles of the Lord’s house.

Reader 4: But you will not leave in haste or go in flight;

Reader 1: for the Lord will go before you,

Reader 2: Lord, go before us!

Reader 3: Before us! And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Reader 4: Lord, be our rear guard!

All: The Lord will go before us! The God of Israel will be our rear guard!

† Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we open our hearts to you.

Cleanse us today and fill us with your hope and love that we might share this love with our neighbors.

You are our Rock and our Shelter. Through Christ all have a place at Your Table.

Help us share your great welcome to the whole world as we seek to be creators of justice, joy, compassion, and peace.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. A - rise, shine out your light has come, un - fold - ing
 2. A - bove earth's val - leys, thick with night, high on your
 3. From walls sur - pass - ing time and space un - num - bered
 4. The sounds of vi - o - lence shall cease as dwell - ings
 5. The danc - ing air shall glow with light, and sun and

cit - ty of our dreams, On dis - tant hills a glo - ry
 walls the fra - gn ap - pears, and his - to - ry shall dry its
 gates, like o - pen hands, shall gath - er gifts from all the
 of sal - va - tion rise to spar - kle in e - ter - nal
 moon give up their place, when love shines out of ev - ery

gleams; the new cre - a - tion has be - gun.
 tears, as na - tions march to - ward your light.
 lands and wel - come all the hu - man race.
 skies from av - e - nues of praise and peace.
 face, our good, our glo - ry, and de - light.

“Arise, Shine Out, Your Light has Come” is based on Isaiah 60, when all the people come together once more in the light of their Lord.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 52:7-12

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it; purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord. For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Sermon

The Good Feet Church
 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Invitation to the Table:
Holy Communion is one of two sacraments in The United Methodist Church. It is an act believed to be ordained by Christ which brings us into the grace of God. We are not made more worthy of grace by receiving Communion, we are simply made more ready to receive it, strengthened to proclaim with our words and deed the good news in our communities. In The United Methodist Church we celebrate an open invitation to take Communion, meaning you do not have to be a member of the church or baptized, persons of any age may receive Communion, and with any background. All that is required of a person wishing to join the holy feast is that they love God, neighbor, and self and seek to live in peace and reconciliation.

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

We are drawn to the table because we are happy and unhappy, because we are pilgrims and hosts, because we are trying to leave or return home.

And at the table we are given the good news that God's love rushes forth, not only for the few and certain, but for the many who seek.

The invitation is extended by Christ himself, the Savior whose reputation was ruined by those with whom he dined.

Today, all who are gathered are called as guests to the table, and all who accept the invitation accept a journey of transformation.

Come, all who desire a taste of God's abundance, God's compassion and God's higher way; and come, having confessed our sins before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

**For the roads that we have blocked,
For the bridges we didn't build,
For the empty table that we didn't fill,
Forgive us.**

Silence is kept.

The Lord God is merciful and gracious,
endlessly patient, loving, and true,
showing mercy to thousands,
forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and granting pardon. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

We are blessed to be a blessing. During the 2023 Annual Conference Session, all funds collected during worship and received online through June 30th, 2023, will be all totaled together and distributed evenly to Dig Deep Appalachia Water Project, The Reparations Fund of the UM Foundation of WV, and the Africa University Fund.

Offertory Anthem

Creation of Peace

Mark Miller, Conference Choir

† Offertory Response

Marching to Zion, UMH 733

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; —
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
we-re march-ing Em-man-uel's ground, we're march-ing through Em-

8
sweet ac-cord and thus sur-round the throne, and
man-uel's ground, to fair-er-worlds on high, and to

11
thus fair-er-worlds the on throne.
high.

We're march-ing to Zi-on beau-ti-fyl, beau-ti-ful Zi-on; we're

march-ing up-ward to Zi-on, the beau-ti-ful cit-y of God.

Opening Worship

Notes:

Invitation to the Table and The Great Thanksgiving taken from 2015 WVAC Opening Worship.

Prayer of Confession from "Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World." Copyright 2020, Abingdon Press.

Prayer After Communion used from "Service of Word and Table I," *The United Methodist Book of Worship*.

Worship Leaders and Communion

Assistants:

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
Chip Bennett
Scott Ferguson
Barb Hale
Joe Hill
Loretta Isaiah
Neil Leftwich
Matthew Paugh
Amy Shanholtzer
Melissa Shortridge
Rick Swearingin
Jeff Taylor
Maria Wiblin
Kristi Wilkerson
Ken Willard
Jamion Wolford

Musicians:

Conference Choir

Music Director:

Dan Stokes

The Great Thanksgiving

God has prepared for us a highway.

Thanks be to God.

The work of Christ is before us.

Thanks be to God.

The Spirit of the Lord is in this place.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, we gather in the fullness of your mystery, ready to be nourished by your hand. We give thanks to you for gifting us with life abundant and for giving us a great thirst for love modeled after your own appetite.

You call us to experience your goodness so that we might proclaim your truth to all generations—under the light of your grace the desert rejoices and blossoms, water breaks forth in the wilderness and a highway home emerges for the traveler.

Blessed are you, O God, who makes sorrow flee and beckons singing to replace sighing.

Even when we are unable to see the way that leads to holiness, even when we choose the burning sand over the cool pool of redemption, you pour yourself out, strengthening the weak and affirming the fearful.

And so, with all those sinners and saints before us, we offer our song of thanks:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, who became at all points like we are, yet without sin, calling people everywhere to the way of the kingdom: to attend to the seeds of hope, to water the roots of justice, to yield the fruits of love.

By the baptism of his life, suffering, death and resurrection, you gave birth to a new community, the church, and saved your people from withering beneath sin and death by making with us a new covenant with water and the Spirit.

Before he was taken into custody by an unfeeling empire Jesus took bread, gathered his friends, gave thanks and broke the bread saying to his disciples, "Take, eat, this is my body and it 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 all gathered and said:
Before he was taken into custody by an unfeeling empire
Jesus took bread, gathered his friends, gave thanks and broke the bread
saying to his disciples, "Take, eat, this is my body and it is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

And so, we remember and proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

We pour ourselves out before you, O God, in praise and thanksgiving,
a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us.
So, God, bring forth life through your Holy Spirit;
bless us, fill us and make these elements for us
the body and blood of Christ that we may remember,
we too are to be poured out for the world.
Make us one with Christ,
one with each other
and one in ministry in this parched land until Christ returns-
his vision complete, his way made clear, his feast set before the nations.

By Him, with Him, and in Him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, now and ever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer [ecumenical version]

**Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving and Receiving the Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer: This prayer, which Jesus taught to his disciples, and they in turn taught to others, reminds us to rely on God to help us bring God's peace to the world. How can we better do God's will? How can we better forgive those who sin against us? How can we help to teach these words to those in our communities who may have never heard them, but may need to?

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 in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Arise, Your Light Has Come, Lutheran Hymnal, 314

Text Ruth Duck, GIA 1992

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

† Sending Forth

From the hills of Cabwaylingo to the mountains of the Monongahela National Forest; from the Southern Coalfields to the Northern Panhandle; from the New River Gorge to the Mason-Dixon line; from the banks of the Ohio to the South Branch of the Potomac and every place in between— how beautiful are the feet of those who announce peace, who bring good news, who proclaim God's salvation, and who cry out, "Your God reigns!" Go forth: proclaiming peace, sharing the good news, announcing salvation, and making known God's power and presence among us! Amen.

Historic Questions and Retirement

Friday, June 9, 2023 ❖

Gathering Music

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Welcome

We have gathered to celebrate the ministry of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We recognize the commitment and covenant being made by those who will answer the Historic Questions and are ready to begin commissioned or ordained ministry.

We also come to celebrate and give thanks for all those who answered a call to licensed or ordained ministry but now prepare to enter into a retired relationship with the West Virginia Conference. We thank God for the community of the faithful who heard and experienced Christ through their work.

By God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit the Good News is proclaimed yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Thanks be to God.

† Hymn

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing, UMH 57

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” was written by Charles Wesley after his own Heart Strangely Warmed moment. The hymn contains many more verses than are usually sung. Across all eighteen verses of this hymn, the message is clear: God is worthy of praise for the salvation God brings.

1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he
5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new
6. Hear him, ye deaf; praise, ye dumb, your
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall

3
great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
bids our sor - rows cease: 'tis mu - sic in the
sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold - your
feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your

6
God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
earth a - broad, the hon - ors of thy name.
sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health and peace.
foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

Introduction to the Historic Questions: United Methodist pastors since 1773 have answered nineteen historic questions as a way of agreeing to how they will live into this ministry life. Before answering these questions in the presence of the Annual Conference candidates have reflected and written answers to the Board of Ordained Ministry. In addition, each has heard a meditation and explanation of the questions from our Bishop. As a church, we are grateful for the time and careful reflection of all who answer these questions as they prepare for vocational ministry.

Introduction to Historic Questions

Historically, these questions have been asked of 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 an instrument of peace.

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

Presentation of Those Being Commissioned or Ordained

Bishop Steiner Ball, I am pleased to present to you these persons who will be commissioned or ordained as servant leaders for the work and ministry of the Church.

Asking of the Historic Questions

(Candidates respond in bold)

The examination of candidates for membership is an 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.

Congregational Prayer:

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 may return to their seats.)

Offering

We are blessed to be a blessing. During the 2023 Annual Conference Session, all funds collected during worship and received online through June 30th, 2023, will be all totaled together and distributed evenly to Dig Deep Appalachia Water Project, The Reparations Fund of the UM Foundation of WV, and the Africa University Fund.

Offertory

*Creation Will be at Peace, Anna Laura Page
Conference Choir Jubilate Music Group 00-4248 SATB*

Congregational Prayer:

All those who answer the Historic Questions can only do so because congregations have raised, empowered, encouraged, and lifted them up do so. Do you know someone in your congregation who could benefit from your encouragement and mentorship? How might you talk to children in your church about the variety of ways people serve the church?

† Offering Response

Blessed Be the God of Israel, UMH 209 v. 1

Blessed Be the God of Israel: Recalling the work of God throughout the history of salvation, “Blessed Be the God of Israel,” asks us all to see how God has worked in the past and how God is working now. The opening stanza recalls God’s promise in Isaiah for a savior to come from the family of David. The song ends with a call for us to charge onward, preparing the way of the Lord and drive away the dark with the light of God’s love.

1. Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
 2. Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is given;
 3. On pris - on - ers of dark - neww the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease; _____
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way _____
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the path of peace; _____

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Scripture Lesson:

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Retirement Celebration

Today we celebrate those who said "yes" to God's call upon their lives. We celebrate those who gave of themselves as ministers so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be proclaimed in acts of love far and wide.

As each name is called, the retiree (and spouse) comes to the chancel. The retiree will receive a pin and certificate. The spouse is given a corsage or boutonniere. As each retiree (and spouse) is presented you are invited to rise in body, mind and spirit in recognition of those persons whose lives and ministries have blessed yours.

Recognition of Retirees & Video

Dina Andrews
Carl Beatty
Saundra Boley
William Brown
Margaret Carr
Marybeth Chien
Johnny Conrad
Destry Daniels
Teresa Deane

Ye Servants of God, takes its language from the multitude that gathers around God's throne in the book of Revelation. The hymn asks us to join the unending hymns of Heaven and proclaim God's glory and salvation to all who we see. How can we better carry the love and wonder of God throughout our lives?

Hymn Of Celebration

Ye Servants of God, UMH 181, v. 1

Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 and pub - lish a broad his won - der - ful name;
 the name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.

Recognition of Retirees

- April Forkey
- Karen Frank
- Robert Fulton
- Jeff Godwin
- Larry Hakes
- Paul Helmick
- Aaron Himes
- Angela Gay Kinhead
- Thomas McDowell
- David Merryman

"Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"

Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;

the prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,

fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.

Recognition of Retirees

- Mary Nolte
- Jesse Pope
- Alan Price
- W. Ford Price
- Ken Ramsey
- Stephen Paul Rector
- Rosemary Saunders
- Jonathan Smith
- James Sprague

Then let us a - dore and give him his right,
all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom — and might;
all hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a bove,
and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Recognition of Retirees

- Bonnie Starkey
- Terry Stone
- Lisa Taylor
- Carl Van Stavern
- George Webb
- C. Phillip Wilson
- Gwen Wolford
- David Yanero

† Hymn Of Celebration

Rejoice in God's Saints, UMH 708

1. Re - joice in God's saints, to - day and all days;
 2. Some march with e - vents, to - day turn them God's way;
 3. Re - joice in those saints, un - praised and un - known,
 4. Re - joice in God's saints, to - day and all days;

a world with - out saints for - gets how — to praise.
 some need to with - draw, the bet - ter — to pray.
 who bear some - one's - cross or should - er their own.
 a world with - out saints for - gets how - to praise.

Their faith in ac - quir - ing the hab - it of prayer,
 Some car - ry the gos - pel through fire and through flood;
 They shame our com - plain - ing, our com - forts, our cares;
 In lov - ing in liv - ing, they prove it is true:

their depth of a - dor - ing, Lord, help us to share.
 our world is their - par - ish; their pur - pose is God.
 what pa - tience in car - ing, their cour - age, is theirs!
 the way of self - gic - ing, Lord, leads us to you.

“Rejoice in God’s Saints,” looks at the people of God and names the many roles someone may have in bringing God’s will to the world. This hymn calls on us to acknowledge and thank God for the work of our fellow saints, and to give thanks to God for the guidance we have been given through them.

Thanksgiving over the Retirees and Blessing for those entering service:

As we give thanks for both those entering retirement and those entering into service, we are reminded that God's work does not belong only to one person, one congregation, or one phase of life. God's work is the work of all disciples in all places. Use this opportunity to reflect on your own call. How are you being called to be an instrument of peace, and a messenger of Good News?

Thanksgiving Over The Retirees And A Blessing For Those Entering Service

Leader: Holy God, we give you thanks for all who have answered the call to shepherd your people.

Congregation: We give thanks for the care with which we were held, and for the vision of service we shared together.

Retirees: We are grateful for the communities that sustained us and helped us as we grew in our desire for mercy and justice. We are grateful for the opportunities we were given to be invited into the lives of God's people. Knowing we did not accomplish all we wanted, we are grateful to be released from our work and to enter a new season of faithfulness.

All: Let us abide together in the love of God.

Leader: Holy God, bless those before us who are entering vocational ministry. We are grateful for their gifts and we pray for their wholeness in the days to come. Bless them with joy in their ministry so that they may be examples of Christ's hope.

Retirees: Bless them with strength and wisdom for their work, so that they may lead consistently and faithfully.

Leader: Soon to be commissioned and ordained: Bless us with rest and play so that we might always be connected to the liberation and mercy of the Gospel.

Congregation: Bless them with compassion that we might build the kingdom in every community.

All: Let us abide together in the love of God.

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a -
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful — it
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - and to — re -
 4. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it

bove, of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of — Je - sus and his
 seems than all the gold - en fan - cies of — all our gold - en
 peat what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly
 best seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to — hear it like the

love, I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis —
 dreams, I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for —
 sweet, I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er —
 rest. And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new

true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 me; and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.
 heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

“I Love to tell the Story:” We all have stories that we can tell. Stories of God’s love for us and of the Church that has cared for us throughout our life. “I Love to tell the Story,” asks that we see in the multitude of stories we tell, in this life and the next, the timeless story of God’s love and redemption at work in our lives.

Historic Questions and Retirement Notes:

Liturgists:
 Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
 Ellis Conley
 Judi Kenaston
 Jim McCune
 Scott Sears

Musicians:
 Conference Choir

Music Director:
 Dan Stokes

† Sending Forth

Go in peace knowing that Christ is on your right and on your left. Christ before you, Christ behind you, Christ above you, Christ beneath you, and Christ within you. Remain in him as he remains in you. Amen.

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory, Paul Manz

Memorial Service

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ❖ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Hymn of Promise, UMH 707 Natalie Sleeth

Amazing Grace Raymond Haan

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

† Call to Worship

Based on John 14:1-7

One: Jesus said: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.’

All: We believe in Jesus Christ, whose resurrection gives us eternal life.

One: Jesus said with blessed assurance: ‘In my Father’s house, there are many dwelling places.’

All: Dwelling places prepared for us, children of God.

One: Jesus promised: ‘If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you there myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.’

All: We give thanks for the promise that when it is time for us to leave our earthly lives, Jesus carries us home to be with God.

One: Jesus said: ‘You know the way to the place where I am going,’ but Thomas had doubts:

All: ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’

One: Jesus said to him: ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life.’

All: We gather today to celebrate life and to bear witness to the resurrection. Thanks be to God!

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-7: God’s work throughout all history has been to bring humanity back into relationship with the Divine. In Revelation 21, we see God’s plan to bring Heaven and Earth together. No longer will there be a separation between God and humanity, or among the saints who have won their eternal prize. All is together, and all is beloved.

Call to Worship: Based on John 14: 1-7: John 14, the basis for our call to worship, is one of Jesus’s most intimate discussions with his disciples. Even after he was raised from the dead, Christ needed to ascend. His words to his disciples of comfort, that he was going with purpose, to make a way for them to fully embrace the fullness of God’s salvation.

† Opening Hymn

For All the Saints, UMH 711 v. 1, 2, 4 & 6

“For all the Saints:”

We have been shaped by people throughout our lives who have died and gone to glory. “For all the Saints” reminds us that we should thank God for the work of those who came before us, for their companionship, and most especially that God cares for them while they are beyond us, in a place we cannot go. Think of those who are presently gone from us who have loved you into who you are and thank God for their work and their rest.

(see opt. harmonization)

1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,
 *4 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship de - vine!
 6 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through

5 thee by faith be fore the world con - fesses, thy
 Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly of strug - gle, they in the glo - ry shine; yet
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,

9 name, O in the Je - sus, be for - ev - er - blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness, drear, their one true light.
 all are to one in ther, thee, for and all are thine.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly - Ghost:

Refrain
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Scripture

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Sermon

Rev. Jacob Steele

Offering

We are blessed to be a blessing. During the 2023 Annual Conference Session, all funds collected during worship and received online through June 30th, 2023, will be all totaled together and distributed evenly to Dig Deep Appalachia Water Project, The Reparations Fund of the UM Foundation of WV, and the Africa University Fund.

Offertory Anthem

I Will Arise
 Brookfield Press 08741017 SATB

Naming of the Saints:

By naming all those who have gone on to glory in the last year we are able to honor their work, their story, and celebrate their place in the communion of saints. Churches have an opportunity to remember their saints every year on All Saints Day, celebrated on the Sunday closest to November 1.

The Naming of the Saints

As names are read, a bell will chime in honor and remembrance of those persons who have gone on to the church triumphant since our last Annual Conference gathering. We invite family members and those who are friends and former church members to stand as each name is read.

In Memoriam – Clergy and Deaconess

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Gary Beale	Retired Elder	June 1, 2022
Earl Bible	Retired Local Pastor	August 4, 2022
Arthur “Gene” Bourgeau	Local Pastor	September 14, 2022
Verlin Eugene Butcher	Retired Associate Member	October 19, 2022
John Casto	Retired Local Pastor	February 7, 2023
I. Joanne Horne Clevenger	Local Pastor	September 21, 2022
Earl Cochran	Local Pastor	June 12, 2022
Michael Coleman	Retired Local Pastor	March 3, 2023
Jay Paul Cook	Retired Elder	December 19, 2022
Herbert R. Coston	Retired Elder	October 19, 2022
James E. Daily	Retired Associate Member	June 5, 2022
Sandra Kay Firth	Retired Elder	June 14, 2022
Danny Fleming	Retired Local Pastor	March 17, 2023
Irene Ford	Retired Associate Member	August 20, 2022
L. Frank Frye	Retired Elder	July 3, 2022
Allen Ernest Johnson	Retired Elder	June 12, 2022
Kenneth Kendall	Retired Local Pastor	March 11, 2023
Nancy Sue Killingsworth	Retired Local Pastor	July 31, 2022
Mary Virginia “Ginnie” Lowther	Retired Deacon	September 4, 2022
Robert Mann	Local Pastor	March 19, 2023
Betty Helen McBee	Retired Associate Member	June 28, 2022
Carroll L. McCauley	Retired Associate Member	September 6, 2022
Dallas Peyton, Sr.	Retired Elder	December 22, 2022
Kelly Simmons	Local Pastor	January 14, 2023
Samuel Starling	Retired Elder	March 30, 2023
Conrad Tenney	Retired Associate Member	April 8, 2023
Larry Allen Walker	Retired Local Pastor	July 2, 2022
Nancy Hager White	Retired Associate Member	May 5, 2023
Billy Reed Wickline	Retired Elder	March 21, 2023
John Wildman	Retired Elder	March 14, 2023

In Memoriam – Spouses of Clergy

<u>Name of Deceased</u>	<u>Spouse of</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Donna Allen	Rev. John Allen	May 11, 2023
George W. Bennett	Rev. Becky Bennett	September 15, 2022
Roberta Lee Vincent Butcher	Rev. Verlin E. Butcher	June 14, 2022
James C. Finegan	Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan	April 21, 2023
Linda Fleming Glotfelty	Rev. Melvin Ross Glotfelty	November 15, 2022
Paula Jo Dundas Hamrick	Rev. Steven Hamrick	December 13, 2022
Betty Sue Heavner	Rev. Robert F. Heavner	January 30, 2023
Eugenie “Jeanie” Malick	Rev. James Malick	July 2, 2022
Merdith Marker	Rev. Charles Marker	February 26, 2023
Nancy Carolyn Merrifield	Rev. Stanley W. Merrifield	July 2, 2022
Beverly J. Warner	Rev. William Welton Warner, Jr.	August 28, 2022
Debra Lynn Wilson	Rev. Teddy Wilson	July 25, 2022

In Memoriam – Surviving Spouses of Clergy

<u>Name of Deceased</u>	<u>Surviving spouse of</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Katherine Jean Hughes	Rev. Dean E. Hughes	August 10, 2021
Helen “Petie” Shafer Boone	Rev. Hugh C. Boone	April 30, 2023
Verlie S. Conrad	Rev. Ray Merle Conrad	April 12, 2023
Anna Edgell	Rev. Romie J. (Jigs) Edgell	March 25, 2023
Pattie Jewell Helmick	Rev. Billie B. Helmick	October 14, 2022
Mavis Inez Lolley Martin	Rev. Owen Clyde Martin	September 19, 2022
Dorothy M. Morrison	Rev. Jim Morrison	July 4, 2022
Molly Pauley	Rev. Leo Pauley	August 21, 2022
Genesta Perry	Rev. Frederick Perry	February 14, 2023
Merle Evelyn Shaffer-Havens	Rev. J.D. Shaffer	August 28, 2022
Dorothy Christine Turner-Lacy	Rev. Nathaniel Turner-Lacy	August 14, 2022
Betty Jean (BJ) Wood	Rev. Emerson Wood	December 23, 2022

We invite you to lift up the names of those who we have not named as one final chime is rung.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of love, we thank you for all with which you have blessed us even to this day: for the gift of joy in days of health and strength and for the gifts of your abiding presence and promise in days of pain and grief.

We praise you for home and friends, and for our baptism and place in your Church with all who have faithfully lived and died. Above all else we thank you for Jesus, who knew our griefs, who died our death and rose for our sake, and who lives and prays for us.

And as he taught us, so now we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod, —
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, —
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down; —
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease; —

“Shall We Gather at the River:” Revelation shows us a vision of living water flowing from God’s throne, feeding the tree of life and watering the holy city of God. In “Shall we Gather at the River,” we see a vision of what it will be like for us to gather together with all the company of heaven.

5

with its crys - tal tide for ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

9 *Refrain*

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

13

gath - er with the saints — at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Sending Forth: Based on Psalm 24 and Revelation 21: Psalm 24 asks who may enter God's presence. The pursuit of God is tied to God's purification of all faithful people, the washing away of what was, and the beginning of something new. God is always fashioning a new creation from the foundations of the old, and we are blessed to go forward into the world proclaiming what wonders God has done, is doing, and will do in ages to come.

† Sending Forth

Based on Psalm 24 and Revelation 21

One: With clean hands and pure hearts,
hold fast to the faith of the saints who went before us.

All: In our living and In our dying, we belong to God.

One: With hopeful hearts and expectant spirits,
receive the blessings of our gracious host.

All: In our living and In our dying, we belong to God.

One: With Christ as our door to eternal life, find the courage to open the door and go In.

All: In our living and In our dying, we belong to God.

Recessional

Carillon, Louis Vierne

