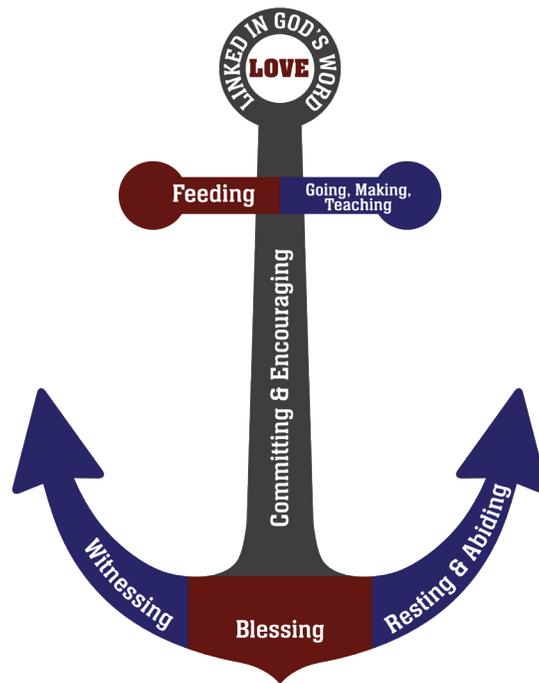


2022 Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference

CLOSING WORSHIP WITH CONFERENCE MEMORIALS AND LITURGY OF DISCONTINUANCE



Saturday, June 4, 2022

11:00 am

Erie Bayfront Convention Center

Closing Worship with Conference Memorials and Liturgy of Discontinuance

GATHERING and PRELUDE

Harps

~ Emily Urso & Melanie Sandrock

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 27

Sharon Gregory, Conference Co-Lay Leader

One: The Lord is our light and our salvation;

All: Whom shall we fear?

One: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives;

All: Of whom shall we be afraid?

One: We have asked one thing from the Lord; it is all we seek:

All: That we may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

My Hope is Built

~ Edward Mote & William B. Bradbury

*OPENING PRAYER

Tender and compassionate God, we seek to know you through the hearing of your Word, and pray that we may go beyond hearing to obeying, as did your servants who have faithfully lived and died. We praise you, O God, for the saints who went before us who have spoken to our hearts and touched us with your fire. We praise you, O God, for the saints who live beside us whose weaknesses and strengths are woven into our own. And we praise you, O God, for all the saints who live beyond us who challenge us to change the world with them. Grant that we, like all your saints, may know your presence and experience the fire within that sends us out to share the good news of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

I Am No Longer My Own

~ Mary McDonald

ACT OF NAMING & REMEMBRANCE

The Rev. Kendra Balliet,
Conference Memorials Committee

As the name of each of the honored dead is read aloud, if that person's life and ministry touched your life, you are invited to stand in their memory.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS (unison)

O God of both the living and the dead, we praise your holy name for the faithful lives of your departed servants whom we honor today. We thank You for the sacred ties that bind us to those unseen who encompass us as a cloud of witnesses. We pray that, encouraged by their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may be diligent followers and that nothing will be able to separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

For All the Saints

~ William W. How, Ralph Vaughan Williams

LITURGY OF DISCONTINUANCE

Adapted from *An Order for the Leave-Taking of a Church Building* and *An Order for Disbanding a Congregation*
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The Rev. Jodie Smith, Superintendent, Franklin & Indiana Districts
Rev. Sung Shik Chung, Superintendent, Johnstown District

Leader: For the Word of God proclaimed in sacred sanctuaries,
For generations who have prayed their prayers and sung your praises,
For lives introduced to God's grace at baptismal fonts,
For tables where the Lord's Supper and potluck suppers have been shared:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For altar rails where we have
Confirmed our youth,
Knelt in confession,
Professed our faith,
Vowed our love, and
Mourned our dead

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the many who moved beyond church walls to serve God and our neighbors;
For food pantries and shelters, childcare and scout troops;
For all the servant ministries that changed lives:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For all this, O God, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord, and we release these congregations into your keeping and care.

People: Amen.

DECLARATION OF CLOSING & PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

O God Our Help in Ages Past

~ Isaac Watts, William Croft & W.H. Monk

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 26:16-20

Members of the Youth Ministry Team (YMT)

PRAYER HYMN

In Times Like These

~ Ruth Caye Jones

SERMON

“Hanging on to the Line”

The Rev. Rob Wilson

SONG OF RESPONSE

Then Sings my Soul

~ Mary McDonald

OFFERING A LEGACY OF FAITH

benefits the *Deeply Rooted,
Upward Reaching* Camping Campaign

The Rev. Dean D. Ziegler, Campaign Director

OFFERTORY

Harps

Emily Urso & Melanie Sandrock

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Bishop: Church, today we recognize all that has happened in our life together as an Annual Conference. We celebrate the ministry that continues to take place across all of the local churches and extension ministries that we support. In the name of Jesus Christ, I commend you to this work and pledge to you my prayers, encouragement and support – and I would ask the same of you for me. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us, that in this and in all things, we may do God’s will in the service of Jesus Christ!

The Bishop may give some personal words of closing and encouragement, and then lead the Conference in prayer...

WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYER

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

*** CONFERENCE ADJOURNMENT**

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

~ Matthew Bridges, Godfrey Thring & George J. Elvey

***POSTLUDE**

SERVICE MUSIC PROVIDED BY:

Emily Urso & Melanie Sandrock, Harps
The Rev. J. Mark Heckman, Organ
The Rev. Steve Morse, Song Leader
WPAUMC Ministers' Chorus
Bruce Gingrich, Accompanist

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Conference Memorials Committee, Youth Ministry Team (YMT), Robb Montgomery,
Erica Rushing



Western PA Conference
The United Methodist Church