

Opening Order of Worship
North Carolina Annual Conference
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 1:30pm

Conference theme: Graceful Justice

Logistical Notes:

- Pre-packed gluten-free Communion elements will be distributed prior to the service

***Processional** “And Are We Yet Alive” (UMH 553)

And are we yet alive,
and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give
for his almighty grace!

Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join,
and in his sight appear.

What troubles have we seen,
what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!

Yet out of all the Lord
hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford,
and hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross
till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss
so we may Jesus gain.

***Call to Worship** from Psalm 51 (UMH 786) **(John Hall)**

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth your praise.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit.
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

***Opening Hymn:** "And Can It Be" (UMH 363)

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Savior's blood!
Died he for me? who caused his pain!
For me? who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;
let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;
let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th' eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Prayer for Illumination (Varonica Livingston)

Lord, open our eyes:

That we may see one another anew.

Open our ears, O God:

That we may hear your Word proclaimed.

Holy Spirit, open our hearts:

That we may behold how wondrous and deep is your love for us.

O God, open our mouths:

That we may bear witness to the mystery of the gospel. Amen.

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:1-6

Rev. Sangwoo Kim
Rev. Ernesto Barriguete
Rev. Roy Hilburn

Sermon "One Body, One Spirit" - Bishop Fairley

Anthem: "[Many Gifts, One Spirit](#)," by Allen Pote

Baptismal Reaffirmation & Intercessions (Bishop Leeland)

Sisters and brothers,

We are united by one faith in one Lord and one God who is above, through, and in all things.

Together we share one baptism that unites us into one hope of our calling.

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises; through it we are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation – a new birth through water and the Spirit.

(water is poured by one District Lay Leader & DS)

As we remember our baptism today, I invite you to also remember God's promise by reaffirming these commitments you made, or that were made on your behalf.

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

Let us now join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

As those who are called into ministry through our baptism, let us now devote ourselves to the work of intercession. After naming each petition, I will allow time for you to pray silently or aloud. Then I will say, "Lord, in your mercy," and you will respond, "Hear our prayer."

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for the gift of water. In the beginning, when nothing existed by chaos, your Spirit swept across the waters and brought forth light. You saved your people on the ark from the waters of the flood. You delivered your people as slaves in Egypt through the sea. You brought their children through the Jordan to the land you promised.

Lord, for those who are weighed down by famine or flood. Where your people suffer from natural disaster, at the hands of storms or drought, wildfire or tsunami, we pray for their recovery and release.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those caught in webs of violence, whether the devastation of war or the assaults of those close to home, deliver them from the hands of their oppressors.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. By his death and resurrection your Son, the living water, frees us from sin and death and opens the way to life everlasting.

For those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit today, including those in our connection who are absent from us right now, give courage and hope in the midst of troubles and knowledge of the love of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, assure them of your love and your lordship over all things, a reign that extends over life and death.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out upon us, and on your whole church, the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that all who have passed through the waters of baptism might die to sin and live to God in Jesus Christ.

For your church, we pray for peace and reconciliation. Where schism has been experienced, or even where it threatens, call us to unity. For the United Methodist Church and its leaders, give us knowledge and understanding of your Word so that by our preaching and living you may be made known.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All praise you, almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

Invitation (Bishop Fairley)

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession, Pardon, Peace

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not

heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen**

Let us offer one another, as children of one baptism, signs of reconciliation and love:

[Look for a responsive sentence for passing the peace?]

Offering

Congregational Song: "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son

And now let the weak say I am strong

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us

And now let the weak say I am strong

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks

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, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth.

You make the gifts of your creation into the means of our redemption, and you turn our fallen folly into the occasion of your risen glory. In Christ the Lamb you gave us everything you had. Though we strayed from your ways, yet you set before us this gracious banquet in which that crucified and risen Lamb reconciles us with you. We live in gratitude for your mercy.

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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. The pastor may raise hands . Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations. His family in all the world joins together at his holy table.

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.

Give us this bread always, that, coming to you, your people will never be hungry, and, believing in you, your people will never be thirsty. Renew your servants in the gifts of ministry and bless any who labor and are heavy-laden by surrounding them with the joyous companionship of your saints, until all who share in one Lord, one faith and one baptism are one in unity before your throne.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (Bishop Fairley)

Partaking of the Bread and the Cup (Bishop Fairley)

Prayer following Communion (UMH 11) (Rev. Beth Hood)

Eternal Father, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have revealed 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 Song - [This is a Day of New Beginnings](#) (UMH 383 vv. 1-4)**

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind

our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

***Sending - Bishop Fairley**