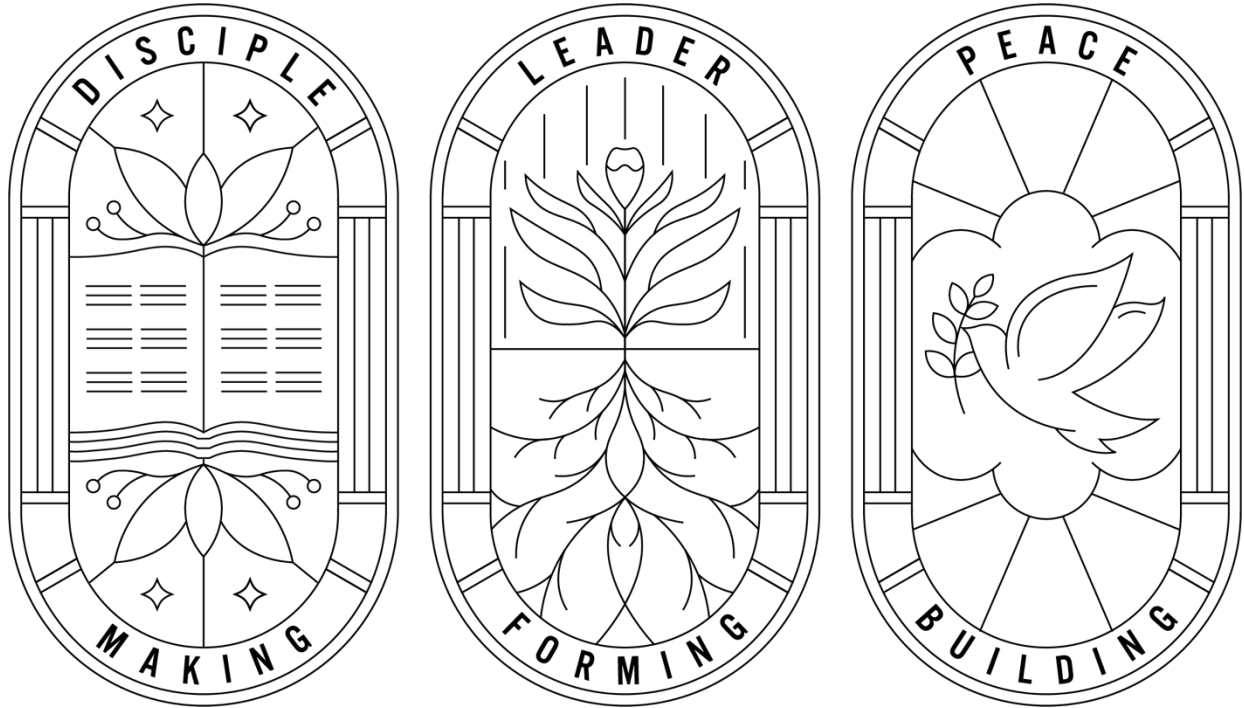


# *Opening Worship Service*

The North Carolina Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church



Thursday, June 13, 2024 • 1:30 pm  
Greenville Convention Center  
Greenville, North Carolina

# Opening Worship

## Gathering Music

Greeting and Welcome ..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

Opening Song ..... *A Place at the Table*..... W&S 3149

### Verse 1

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.

### Refrain

And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace:  
Yes, God will delight  
When we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

### Verse 2

For all who share life, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for all who share life, a system that's fair.

[Refrain]

### *The Age of Spiritual Osmosis (Spoken Word)*

*We are born-to live  
Lively and in abundance!  
Born-to create!  
To remember, the joy  
Of heaven, and heavenly places!  
Born to love, and to be loved!  
For God is our Love!  
As we are set free from,  
The-human mental prisons!  
To the activation of our spiritual-selves!*

Verse 3

For those we neglect, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for those we neglect, the right to belong.

[Refrain]

*The Age of Spiritual Osmosis (continued)*  
*In a world threatened by darkness*  
*We shine on! Rejoicing! Flowing in Blessings!*  
*in these overflowing Blessings!*  
*Opening our hearts-to the Grace of the Lord!*  
*Our lives transformed-to the constant,*  
*Renewal of our mindsets!*  
*What more, can our souls, say*  
*To each other? In the Love of God,*  
*That surpasses all knowledge and*  
*Understanding? Teach us to love, Lord*  
*And fill us with your fullness, and*  
*Abundance! Uniting our faith, in Christ!*  
*For the joy of the Lord is our strength!*

Verse 4

For all who have breath, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and color,  
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace.

[Refrain]

*The Age of Spiritual Osmosis (continued)*  
*As we give ourselves to each-other!*  
*Let there be spiritual osmosis, of your*  
*Presence in all of us! The perfection,*  
*Of Social Holiness! In this our century!*  
*All for God! And God for us all!*  
*Teach us to Love, God. In your discipleship,*  
*We accept the gift of flourishing!*  
*Stepping side by side in peace!*  
*As we lead this world, at large!*  
*Let it be done on earth, as it is*  
*In heaven! Let it be done on earth,*  
*As it is in heaven! Let it be done on earth,*  
*As it is in heaven!*  
*In the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ! Amen.*

Verse 5

For you and for me, a place at the table,  
though wounded and sore, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

[Refrain}

Verse 6

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.

[Refrain]

**Opening Prayer of Invitation and Embodiment**..... Rev. Eunsoo Kang  
*English*

Loving God, call us together as your creators of justice and joy; transform us and the world with your love. Transform our hearts, that we may love generously. Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace. Transform our hands, that we may serve others. Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of Christ, gathered to worship and sent out to serve. Amen.

*Korean*

사랑의 하나님,  
우리를 당신의 정의와 기쁨을 함께 창조해 나가는 이들로 불러 주옵소서.  
당신의 사랑으로 우리와 세상을 변화시켜 주옵소서.  
우리의 마음을 변화시켜 주셔서,  
우리가 너그럽게 사랑할 수 있게 하여 주옵소서.  
우리의 눈을 변화시켜 주셔서,  
우리가 당신의 은혜를 볼 수 있게 하여 주옵소서.  
우리의 두 손을 변화시켜 주셔서,  
우리가 다른 사람들을 섬길 수 있게 하여 주옵소서.  
우리의 영혼을 변화시켜 주셔서,  
우리가 예배드리기 위해 모여지고, 섬기기 위해 보내지는  
그리스도의 몸이 되게 하여 주옵소서. 아멘.

**Scripture Lesson**..... Romans 12:1-2 (NRSV)..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

**Song of Preparation..... Enemies Into Neighbors .... Neighborhood Worship Collective**

Verse 1

For years you've prayed for revival  
Asking for God to come down  
To fill all your churches, say the right words,  
And act like nothing is wrong

Verse 2

To fix anyone you call broken  
To tell us we do not belong  
To come in here dressed up, but our minds are still messed up  
We're burned by the hate in your songs

Chorus

This is what revival is  
People marching in the streets  
(say ) "kNOw justice kNOw peace"  
Fight systems for humanity

This is what revival is:  
Turning enemies into neighbors  
Making fruits of all our labor  
So our people can be free  
This is what revival is

Verse 3

So now we sit at a crossroads  
Jesus is offering grace  
Put down your stones and tear down these thrones that  
hurt you just the same?

[Chorus]

Interlude

Open your eyes and your hearts

**Sermon..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton**

**Invitation ..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton**

**Prayer of Confession..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton**

**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.**

**Words of Assurance and Pardon** ..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
That proves God's love for us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Glory to God. Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*We will use the sung version of the Great Thanksgiving found in The Faith We Sing*

The Lord be with you.

TFWS 2257a

**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...  
...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,**

TFWS 2257b

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, who, on the night...

...as we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

TFWS 2257c

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and juice...

...all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen**

TFWS 2257d

## Sharing the Meal

Servers are invited to come forward and disperse with elements. Communion will be offered at multiple locations in the space. Each station will have gluten-free bread and grape juice as well as an alternative option of self-contained cups that have grape juice and a small wafer sealed together. As in all United Methodist Churches, we hope there is no barrier to this taste of God's grace. If you desire to experience the transforming love of God through Jesus Christ, we believe that can happen through these tastes of bread and juice. It's a gift...for you! Because all of who you are is beloved!

When we understand how much God loves us, gratitude and generosity naturally flow from our lives. We are invited to give even as we receive. Offering baskets are positioned along the edges of the room for those who are moved to give to the Gary Wayne Locklear Mission Endowment. Your gifts resource emerging missional needs related to health, wellness, and spiritual vitality found in Jesus Christ.

## Music During Communion ..... *Communion* ..... Maverick City

Take me back to the garden  
Lead me be back to moment I heard Your voice  
Take me back to communion  
Lead me back to the moment I saw Your face

And it was all so simple  
It was easy to love  
No space between us  
It was easy to trust  
'Cause You are closer, closer than my skin  
And You are in the air I'm breathing in (yes, You are)  
And here's where the dead things come back to living  
I feel my heart beating again  
It feels so good to know You are my friend

And this is the garden  
Here in the place I find You close  
This is communion  
Here in the place I'm fully known

And it was all so simple  
You're so easy to love  
And no space between us  
You're so easy to trust

'Cause You are closer, closer than my skin (yes, You are)  
And You are in the air I'm breathing in  
And Here's where the dead things come back to living  
I feel my heart beating again  
It feels so good to know You are my friend

**Sending Forth**..... *I Need You to Survive* ..... Walker

I need you, you need me.  
We're all a part of God's body.  
Stand with me, agree with me.  
We're all a part of God's body.  
It is his will that every need be supplied.  
You are important to me, I need you to survive.  
You are important to me, I need you to survive.

I pray for you , you pray for me.  
I love you, I need you to survive.  
I won't harm you with words from my mouth.  
I love you, I need you to survive.

**Prayer after Receiving**

**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.**

**Benediction** ..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton



## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton ..... Resident Bishop, Raleigh Area  
Dr. Kylan C. Pew ..... Atlanta, Georgia  
Rev. Eunsoo Kang ..... Wrightsville UMC, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina  
Takudzwa Chikepe ..... Christ UMC, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Nicolas Pettye ..... Atlanta, Georgia  
Paul Saik ..... Centenary UMC, New Bern, North Carolina  
Josiah Curry ..... Piney Grove UMC, Maxton, North Carolina

### *A Place at the Table*

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Lori True

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### *Enemies Into Neighbors*

Words: Kylan Pew

Music: Neighborhood Church Worship Collective

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### Communion Setting (TFWS 2257a-d)

Words: The *United Methodist Hymnal*

Music: Mark A. Miller

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### *Communion*

Words and Music: Brandon Lake, Dante Bowe, Jonathan Jay, Steffany Frizzell Gretzinger, Tony Brown

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### *I Need You to Survive*

Words and Music: David Frazier

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