

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CLOSING WORSHIP
Sent Forth to Create Communities of Shalom and Wholeness
Sunday, June 17, 2012

CENTERING WORDS

*Have you wandered far from God? Are you stuck in despair?
Build houses of hope. Plant gardens of faith. Offer prayers of love.
For even in the farthest reaches of our journey, God is with us.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

GATHERING SONGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Conch Shell

Miki Fifita

GATHERING WORDS

One: Here in this place, the Great Weaver has gathered the individual threads of our lives
and woven us together into a community of mutual love and shalom.

All: We are a work of unsurpassed beauty and strength!

One: Here in this time, the Light of the world has wrapped us in a tapestry of light and love
to brighten the world with beauty and hope.

All: We are light for all to see!

One: From here we will leave, anchored and bound across distance and time,
connected in the fabric of Life.

**All: Created by the Great Weaver and bearing Christ's light, we are sent forth as One.
Thanks be to God!**

***SONG OF GATHERING**

"Gather Us In"

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Gardener, Builder and Weaver of Life,
plant your seeds of hope and faith within us.
Help us be a people of light and love,
that others might see your power in our lives.
Touch us with your holy presence,
and your healing strength,
that we might move forward in faith,
creating communities of shalom and wholeness.
In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-2, 13-15

LITANY OF BAPTISM

One: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

All: There is one body and one Spirit, weaving us into the unified hope we know in Christ's call to us.

One: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all. Dear friends as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one with its many interconnected parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are knit into one, so it is with Christ.

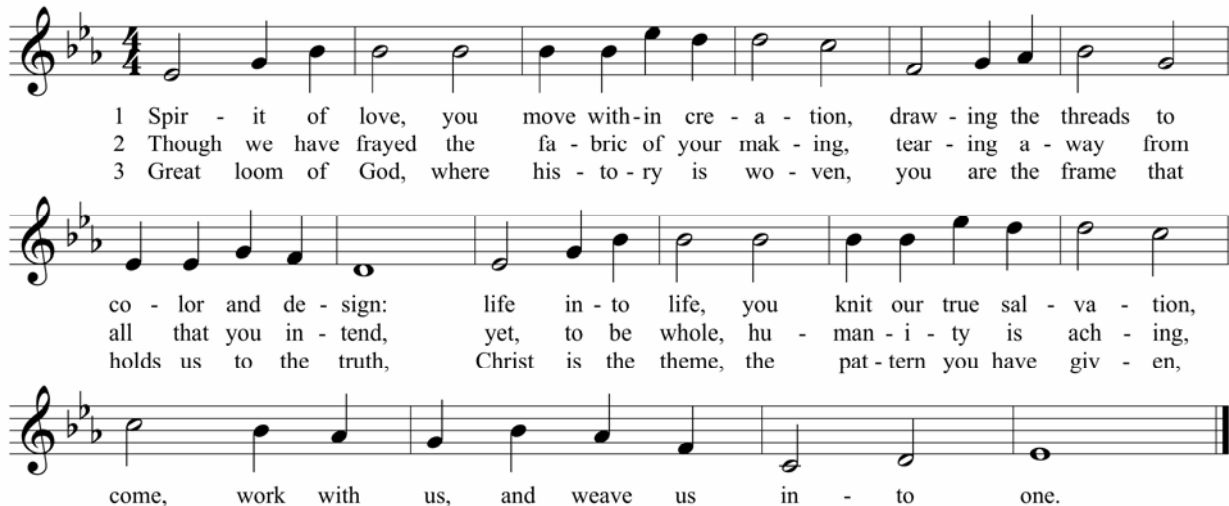
All: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all are connected by one Spirit. Together, we are the body of Christ, and individually, members of it.

One: And so in this time of baptism, we welcome the children into our midst, one with us, connected by Christ, as we remember Jesus' words of welcome:

All Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God.

SONG

"Spirit of Love" – Verse 1



1 Spir - it of love, you move with-in cre - a - tion, draw - ing the threads to
2 Though we have frayed the fa - bric of your mak - ing, tear - ing a - way from
3 Great loom of God, where his - to - ry is wo - ven, you are the frame that
co - lor and de - sign: life in - to life, you knit our true sal - va - tion,
all that you in - tend, yet, to be whole, hu - man - i - ty is ach - ing,
holds us to the truth, Christ is the theme, the pat - tern you have giv - en,
come, work with us, and weave us in - to one.

Words: ShirleyErena Murray © 1992 by Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #E-802489
Music: PERFECT LOVE, Joseph Barnby, 1889. Public Domain.

WORDS OF COMMITMENT

SONG OF COMMITMENT “Mattias, God Claims You”

Mat - ti - as, God claims you, God helps you, pro - tects you, and loves you, too.

We this day do all a - gree a child of God you'll al - ways be.

Mat - ti - as, God claims you, God helps you, pro - tects you, and loves you, too.

The Faith We Sing, No. 2249. Words & Music: Stanley M. Farr © 1981 Used with permission.

PRAYER

BAPTISM OF MATTIAS JAMES DODGE

SONG OF BLESSING “Spirit of Love” – Verse 3

1 Spir - it of love, you move with-in cre - a - tion, draw - ing the threads to
2 Though we have frayed the fa - bric of your mak - ing, tear - ing a - way from
3 Great loom of God, where his - to - ry is wo - ven, you are the frame that

co - lor and de - sign: life in - to life, you knit our true sal - va - tion,
all that you in - tend, yet, to be whole, hu - man - i - ty is ach - ing,
holds us to the truth, Christ is the theme, the pat - tern you have giv - en,

come, work with us, and weave us in - to one.

Words: ShirleyErena Murray © 1992 by Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #E-802489
Music: PERFECT LOVE, Joseph Barnby, 1889. Public Domain.

A TIME OF PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 29:4-7 & John 14:25-27

REFLECTIONS

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

A TIME OF OFFERING

SHARING OF GIFTS

“Wind Beneath My Wings” arr. Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
Hula Dancers from the Hawaii District

GATHERING OF GIFTS

United Methodist Urban Internships

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Praise to the Spinner”
Conference Choir, Rev. Gregory Norton, Director

James Hopkins

A TIME OF COMMITMENT

PRAYER FOR UNITY

**God of wisdom and grace,
may your Spirit grow within us,
that we may grow in wisdom and truth
all the days of our lives.**

**Teach us your ways,
that we may walk the path of Christ
and lead others into your light.**

**Clothe us with compassion and kindness,
with humility and gentleness,
that others may see in us
the truth of your love.**

**Bind us together in love and unity,
that our church may be a haven of blessing
and a place of peace.**

SONG OF RESPONSE “Bind Us Together”

A LITANY OF SERVICE

Conference Lay Leader Ken Ellis to Congregation:

Dear friends, today we bless and send forth our many ordained ministers....

Shepherd us as you equip us to live out the mission and purpose of Christ's church in our communities and throughout the world.

Ordained and Consecrated Ministers:

Today we reaffirm this commitment to God in the presence of this congregation. We pray that God will grant us grace to proclaim the Word, administer the Sacraments, and sustain the love, order, and discipleship of the people of God.

Bishop to congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church
by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness,
will you who celebrate these new beginnings
support and uphold your leaders in these ministries?

Congregation:

**We reaffirm our commitment to support
our ordained and consecrated leaders
with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.**

PRAYER

**Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together.
Give all of us the patience, courage, and wisdom
so to care for one another and challenge one another
that together we may follow Jesus Christ,
living together in love,
and offering our gifts and talents in your service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

READING OF APPOINTMENTS

Bishop & District Superintendents

As servants' names are lifted who serve your congregations, you are invited to stand in prayer and support with them as they stand and accept these appointments from God through Bishop Mary Ann Swenson. After each series of appointments, we will bless one another with the sung response.

Reading of Appointments

Song of Response

“As We Part for Towns and Cities”

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "As we part for the towns and ci-ties, where you sum - mon us to go, guide us, Lord, give us strength and cour-age, teach us all _____ we need to know. Keep us hum - ble, fixed on you, _____ for - ev - er seek - ing, born a - new. Kin-dle ho - ly fires with - in us; _____ may your Ho - ly Spir - it glow." The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes on each staff.

CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God, you have made us creatures of relationship,
wonderfully diverse, yet fashioned to be woven into a fabric
more beautiful than any of our individual threads.

**We thank you for our times of holy conversation,
reconnection, shalom, and praise.**

By drawing nearer to one another,
we have drawn nearer to you.

**In our worship and in our resolutions,
let us treasure the gift of our time together.**

In the weaving of our hopes and passions,
open us to new patterns and new ways
of joining our talents and energies.

**May the light of your grace and compassion
blaze within us as we seek to serve you
and as we strive to create communities of shalom
in the places we are sent this year.**

Shine your light within us,
as we bring the light of Christ to our world.

**In the hope given to us by the risen Christ,
and the gentle hand of the Weaver, we pray. Amen.**

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Go now, and live fruitfully where God has placed you.
Pray and strive to create communities of shalom where you live and work.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The People: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

***SONG OF DISMISSAL**

“Canto de Esperanza”
 (“Song of Hope”)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Officiants:

*Bishop Mary Ann Swenson
Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Rev. Tom Choi, Rev. Cathleen Coots, Rev. Bau Dang, Rev.
Kathy Michelle Wilborn, & Rev. Myron Wingfield - District Superintendents*

Liturgists:

*Rev. Piula E. Ala'ilima, Rev. Cherie Jones
Ken Ellis, Connee Freeman, Phil Freeman - Conference Lay Leaders*

Musicians:

*Rev. Gregory Norton, Conference Choir Music Director
Miki Fifita, Conch Shell*

Dancers:

*Becky Choi, Director & Dancer; Crystale Cayaban, Choreographer
Hula Dancers from the Hawaii District:
Collette Anderson, Marina Choi, Sierra Choi, JoAnn Fukumoto, Jane Hinrichs*

Planners:

*Rev. Cheryl Reagan, Rev. Mary J. Scifres, Rev. Sue Oeffler, Rev. Sue D'Alessio,
Rev Karin Ellis, and Rev. Gregory Norton*

Offering:

This morning's offering supports United Methodist Urban Internships a new ministry partnership of the Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation, the local UMC District, and the Conference Higher Education and Campus Ministry Council. UM Urban Internships provides year-long paid urban ministry internships and Christian communal living experience to young adults exploring their call to ministry. More information can be found at www.umurbaninternship.org. Please make your checks payable to Cal-Pac UMC, memo line "urban interns."

Written words for worship were provided today by Cheryl Reagan, Mary J. Scifres, and The United Methodist Book of Worship. The prayer for unity, invitation to offering, and opening prayer were re-printed, with permission of the publisher, from "The Abingdon Worship Annual," ©Abingdon Press. Music reprinted, all rights reserved, under OneLicense E802489. Songs can be found in "Worship and Song," "The United Methodist Hymnal," and "The Faith We Sing." "Spirit of Love" ("Loving Spirit") is available in The New Century Hymnal.