



Abide In Christ

The Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Closing Worship

June 21, 2023 | Renasant Convention Center | Memphis, TN

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ You're invited to stand in body or in spirit. | **Bold** words are spoken responsively.

THE GATHERING

MTSU Wesley Foundation

GREETING

Ms. Arreana Osinloye
Memphis Wesley Foundation, Intern

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
As Christ prayed for us,
may we join as one and worship God in Spirit and Truth.

+ PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

+ CALL TO WORSHIP:

Ms. Arreana Osinloye

Leader: Oh God, we come to glorify your Son who has glorified you.

People: Abiding in Christ we know eternal life.

Leader: You have given us one another to be united under Christ.

People: Abiding in Christ we know you, the only true God.

Leader: Make your name known to us, Oh God.

People: Abiding in Christ our unity makes your joy complete.

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - A Modern Affirmation

Ms. Arreana Osinloye

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is the one true church, apostolic, and universal,
whose holy faith let us now declare:

**People: We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, power, and love,
whose mercy is over all his works,
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of Man,
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.**

**We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love
as set forth in our example of our blessed Lord,
to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

+ CONGREGATIONAL SONG

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

INVOCATION

Rev. Amanda Hartmann Westmoreland

Gracious and loving God, we are prone to believe that we are able to go at it alone. The world tells us that we can overcome any challenge or obstacle that stands in our way. We are tempted to believe that the answers to our problems lie in our own gritty determination.

But, you, O God, know that this is the lie of this world. You, O God, know that our strength is not in our individual pursuits; but that in our surrender to one another you are made known. In our struggle to overcome challenge after challenge in this season, protect us from our tendencies of control, quick answers, and creating new things that are just copies of old things. Sanctify us in the truth of your Spirit that unites us and guides us toward one another. As we gather in this body to worship now, may we see in abiding with one another that we learn how to abide in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ whose glory is made manifest in our love for you and for one another. **Amen.**

BAPTISM RENEWAL LITANY

Ms. Sophie Barker

Leader: we are people of the water!

People: we worship a God whose love flows through water.

Leader: love, like a rain shower, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to bloom.

People: we worship a God whose love flows through water.

Leader: love, like a waiting pool, inspires the delight of children, jumping, splashing, spraying each other, shivering wet with joy.

People: we worship a God whose love flows through water.

Leader: love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanses us, reawakens us.

People: we worship a God whose love flows through water.

Leader: love, like little drops, drips from fingertips to forehead and the family of faith creates space for those yet to come.

All: we worship a God whose love comes to us through living water.

+ SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 24:13-36

Conference Youth Member

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group

astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

ACT OF PRAISE

Ms. Ayanna Hampton

SERMON

Bishop William T. McAlilly

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Ms. Kyla Smith

NEW SERVICE OF REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Amanda Hartmann Westmoreland

Sisters and brothers in Christ:
through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon the water,
water poured out and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,
to renew our commitments
in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us,
the Spirit who has birthed us,

and the Creator who is making all things new.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Rev. Dr. Deborah B. Smith

Leader: And so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**People: we renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of our sin!**

Leader: Will you let the spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**People: We accept the freedom and power God gives us
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves!**

Leader: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

**People: We confess Jesus Christ as our savior,
put our whole trust in his grace,
and promised to serve him as our Lord,
in union with the church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

Leader: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together wherever you are and all that you do?

**People: We will remain faithful members of Christ holy church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Leader: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the scriptures of the old and new testaments?

**People: We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church
as we put our trust in God, the Father almighty,
And Jesus Christ is only Son, and in the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Bishop William T. McAlilly

Leader: The spirit of the Lord is with us.

People: Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Leader: Let us pray,
almighty God, the life you birthed in us
by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.
Your justice never fails.
Your mercy is everlasting.

**People: Your healing rivers flow.
Your Spirit blows where you will.
We cannot stop you, God!**

Leader: But sometimes we try.
We try to block the flow,

we redirect the winds of the Spirit,
or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream
that we do not hear its sound,
and we forget its power.
We parch ourselves.

Leader: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

People: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Leader: Come upon these waters.

People: Come upon these waters.

Leader: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

People: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Leader: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

People: Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Leader: Most Holy God, Abba, father!

People: Glory to you!

Leader: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

People: Glory to you!

Leader: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

People: Glory to you!

Leader: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

People: All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

“Amazing Grace”

BENEDICTION

Bishop William T. McAlilly

Go now in the confidence
of those whose joy is found abiding
in the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

SONG OF SENDING

“Pass It On”

SERVING IN WORSHIP

MUSICIANS

Annual Conference Director of Music - Mrs. Cynthia Haley

Worship Leader - Rev. Linda Furtado

Organist - Dr. Ashley Davis

LEADERSHIP

Preacher - Bishop Gregory V. Palmer

Resident Bishop - Bishop William T. McAlilly

Retired Bishop - Bishop Joseph E. Pennel, Jr.