



Opening Worship

Sunday, June 1st, 2025

Keepsake



ORDER OF WORSHIP

God's Power Doing More Than We Can Ask or Imagine: Are You Ready to Celebrate?

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Davis

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

ENTRANCE

OPENING MUSIC	Improvisation on <i>To God Be the Glory/My Tribute</i>	Arranged by Dr. Ashley Davis
---------------	--	---------------------------------

+THE GATHERING

Leader: Come, people of God, with hearts open to wonder and grace.

People: We come, trusting the One who can do more than we can imagine.

+PROCESSIONAL	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i> DIADEM	UMH #155
HYMNS	<i>The Church's One Foundation</i> AURELIA	UMH #545
	<i>Sweet, Sweet Spirit</i> SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT	UMH #334

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's power is at work within us—beyond our dreams, beyond our plans.

People: We give thanks for the Spirit who moves with strength and love.

Leader: Now to the One who is able to do immeasurably more—

**All: Be glory in our communities, churches, in our conference, in our denomination,
and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations. Amen.**

OPENING SONG	<i>He Reigns Forever</i>	Marshal Carpenter
--------------	--------------------------	-------------------

INVOCATION	Will Church
------------	-------------

Almighty and Everlasting God,
As we enter this time of worship, remind us that in the midst of life's chaos, we are promised the tranquility of your peace. Remind us that your peace is eternal, and your presence is absolute. Calm our restless minds and ease our troubled hearts. We celebrate the promise that nothing separates us from your love, and that all things work together for good as we are called to your purpose. O Lord, we trust in your love and anticipate your blessing. In the faithful and powerful name of Jesus, who can do far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine, we pray. **AMEN.**

ACT OF PRAISE	<i>Glory and Honor</i>	Raymond Wise
---------------	------------------------	--------------

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE	Ephesians 3: 14 – 21 (NIV)	Rev. Dinai Chinoda
READING		

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long

and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Maggie Jarrell

SPECIAL MUSIC

For Every Mountain

Kurt Carr

Soloist: Andrea Merriweather, Soprano

SERMON

"Every Moment Is a Good Moment to Make Disciples"

Bishop David Graves

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

INFANT BAPTISM

Julian Henry Lea

Child of Revs. Luke Benjamin Lea and Erin Elizabeth Sears Lea

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT II

Bishop David Graves and Rev. Renee Dillard, Presiding

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

A representative of the congregation presents the candidates:

I present *Julian Henry Lea* for baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The bishop addresses parents and other sponsors:

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.

Will you nurture this child
in Christ's holy Church,
that by your teaching and example they may be guided
to accept God's grace for themselves,
to profess their faith openly,
and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

A deacon or the pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround this person
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that this child may grow in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them
that they may be a true disciple
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us 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.]**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah

you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

****Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Tell of God's mercy each day.

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.

He called his disciples

to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

****Declare Christ's works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

The pastor may place hands in or over the water, stir the water, or lift the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

to bless this gift of water and him who receives it,

to wash away his sin

and clothe him in righteousness

throughout his life,

that, dying and being raised with Christ,

he may share in his final victory.

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

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Julian Henry Lea, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

**Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.
We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
as members of the family of Christ.**

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

+CELEBRATION
HYMN

"Hymn of Sacraments" - BEECHER

Washed and born again through waters,
Signed and sealed with Spirit's flame,
We are claimed as sons and daughters,
Marked by love and called by name.
Buried with our Savior, rising
From the depths of sin and strife,
We rejoice, new hope surprising—
God has made us heirs of life!

You, O God, are always giving
More than we can know or dream;
Power and promise, ever living,
Flowing like a mighty stream.
Open wide our hearts and vision,
Stretch our faith to trust your way;
Shape us for your boundless mission—
Lead us onward, day by day.

At your feast of love and union,
Bread is broken, wine is poured;
Here we meet in close communion
With our risen, saving Lord.
Grace beyond our comprehending,
Mercy wide as sea and sky—
Hearts and lives in worship blending,
Christ is near and lifted high.

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

Bishop David Graves, Presiding

Today we will receive Holy Communion by intinction or dipping the bread into the cup. There will be communion stations at the end of nearly every aisle. Please come forward as you are ready; ushers will not direct the flow, but may assist if needed. You will be offered a piece of bread. Dip it gently into the cup and partake. Stations for special needs, including gluten-free bread and alternative serving methods, are clearly marked and available. Those unable to come forward may be served at their seat; please alert a nearby usher.

All who seek to follow Christ, regardless of age or church membership, are welcome at the table.

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who seek to live into a future far greater than we ask or imagine, who long to be transformed by his power at work within us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

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

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

THE PEACE

Let us offer signs of reconciliation and love to those immediately around us

OFFERING PRAYER

Today's offering will be used for Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Disaster Relief and Recovery Efforts

+DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Arranged by
Roberta Martin*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye
heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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, who called forth the Church and shaped her from generation to generation, who is doing in our time what once could not be asked or imagined, whose Spirit breathes renewal into tired hearts and calls your people again to boldness and hope. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. 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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ

who revealed your glory in the Church and entrusted to us a mission immeasurably beyond our grasp, and yet entirely possible by your grace.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. 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. 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.

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.

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 Father, now and forever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING OF THE BREAD & CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

MUSIC

One Bread, One Body ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power THE BLOOD

UMH# 620

ZSS #204

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.

SENDING FORTH

+ CLOSING MUSIC

Make Us One

Carol Cymbala

BENEDICTION

Go now with hearts full of wonder and lives ready to be transformed. The God who can do more than we ask or imagine goes before you, works within you, and calls you into holy possibility. Let the Spirit's power shape your vision, renew your strength, and send you forward in love and courage. To the One who is able to do immeasurably more— Be all glory, in the church and in Christ Jesus, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Adoration”

Florence Price

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

LEADERSHIP

Resident Bishop	Bishop David Graves
Retired Bishop	Bishop Joseph Pennell
Liturgist	Rev. Dr. Cynthia Davis
Preaching	Bishop David Graves

MUSICIANS

Annual Conference Director of Worship & Music	Mrs. Cynthia Haley
Organist	Dr. Ashley Davis
Pianist	Rev. Quinten Dickerson
Percussion	Mr. Roney Simelton
Acoustic Guitar	Mr. Christopher Bingham
Rhythm Guitar	Mr. Gerard Harris
Bass Guitar	Dr. Autry Parker, Jr

SOLOISTS

	Rev. Linda Furtado, Soprano
	Mrs. Andrea Merriweather, Soprano
Worship Planning Team	Rev. Susan Carrigan
	Mrs. Cynthia Haley, Director of Worship and Music
	Rev. Linda Furtado
	Rev. Dr. Joey Reed
	Mr. Tim Wise