

**COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION
FRIDAY GATHERING**

OCTOBER 23-24, 2015

“FAITH STORIES IN ADVENT”

Gathering Music

Welcome

OPENING SONG (UMH) 250 “Once in Royal David’s City”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare to welcome God!

A distant star glitters in the sky:

COME, JESUS, COME

A blazing beacon lights up the way:

COME, JESUS, COME

The energy of the Son brightens a gloomy day:

COME, JESUS, COME

OPENING PRAYER OF ADVENT

Bright God of Advent, blaze into our lives. Light up the way and rekindle in us your desire for justice and peace, that we may scatter the ashes that keep us from embracing your love. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Linking Our Faith Stories

This Advent candle lighting ceremony is a variation for traditional lighting of the Advent wreath and links to the stories of our faith, from an a series in the Christian Reformed Church (www.reformedworship.org).

“Testimonies” may be prepared or spontaneous.

“Take It Home” sections may be printed in the bulletin for personal devotions.

1st WEEK OF ADVENT: HOPE

Reading: We light the first Advent candle, the candle of hope, as we look forward to the coming of Jesus, who is our hope now and forever. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth in living hope.” In hope, we look forward to celebrating Jesus’ birth on Christmas; and we look forward to Jesus coming into our lives.

(1 Peter 1:3)

Prayer: Dear God, as we light this candle, we pray that you will shine the light of your hope into our hearts and into our world. Amen.

Testimony

Ask a member of your congregation to offer a short testimony about when he or she faced a difficult time but through God’s grace was able to have hope.

SONG (UMH) 211, v 1 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

(lighting the candle)

[Take it Home]

For your Advent Homework this week, read the story of Abraham & Sarah in Genesis 15:1-6 and 21:1-3. This is a story of hope. God promises them a son, and even though it took a long time, God kept his promise. After reading the story, have each person share a time when they have experienced God's hope.

Additional Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 21:4-9; Luke 2:25-32

2ND WEEK OF ADVENT: JOY

Reading: We light the candle of joy. In the gospel of Luke, the angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord." Jesus' birth brings great joy.

(Luke 2:10)

Prayer: Dear God, bring joy into our hearts, now and forever, and help us to tell others about this joy. Amen.

Testimony

Ask a member of your congregation to talk about the joy of knowing that he or she belongs to God. Some may have a conversion story, others may tell of being raised in the church and when they claimed their faith as their own.

SONG (UMH) 211, v 2 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

(lighting the candle)

[Take it Home]

For your Advent Homework this week, read Acts 8:26-40, the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. Share a story of how you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior or a time when you experienced great joy.

Additional Readings: Acts 9:1-19; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Luke 1:1-25

3rd WEEK OF ADVENT: LOVE

Reading: Today we light the candle of love. In scripture we read, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."

(1 John 4:7)

Prayer: Dear God, we love you because we know that you first loved us. As we light this candle, help us to love each other, and to tell others about the love of Jesus. Amen.

Testimony

Ask a member of the congregation to talk about a time of experiencing the love of God through the ministry of other people.

SONG (UMH) 211, v 3 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

(lighting the candle)

[Take it Home]

For your Advent Homework this week, read Genesis 33:1-17, the story of Jacob's return to Esau and the gracious spirit in which Esau received him. Share a time when the love of Christ was shown to you through the ministry of others.

Additional Readings: Ruth 4:1-12; 1 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 9

4th WEEK OF ADVENT: PEACE

Reading: Today we light the candle of peace. Jesus came to earth as the Prince of Peace to give us peace on earth and in heaven. Saint Paul wrote, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”
(*Philippians 4*)

Prayer: Dear God, help us to know how close you are to us all the time, and help us to show your peace to others in our words and actions. Amen.

Testimony

Ask a member of the congregation to talk about his or her desire for peace. Is there some place in the world, the city, or in life where you long for peace?

SONG (UMH) 211, v 4 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(lighting the candle)

[Take It Home]

For this week’s Advent Homework, read John 14:15-27, in which Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit. Share your desire for peace in the world, whether in a large conflict or in something much smaller.

Additional Readings: Mark 4:35-41; 2 Chronicles 30:1-20

CHRISTMAS DAY

Reading: A candle burns, the last marker of our Advent journey.

As we arrive at our journey’s end, may we arrive with wonder and awe.

As we arrive, the God of waiting welcomes us:

SONG (UMH) 211, v 5 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(lighting the candle)

THE GOSPEL STORY: Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

Dennis Williams, Biblical Storyteller, COS student, East Ohio Conference

***SONG (TFWS) 2095 “Star-Child”**

SEND US OUT

Resources: Prayers adapted from: Candles & Conifers: Resources for All Saints’ & Advent, by Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications, 2005.

COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION

OCTOBER 23-24, 2015

SATURDAY

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION & EUCHARIST

Gathering Music

WELCOME

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN (UMH) 89 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

Graduates process into Centrum during the hymn

**CALL TO WORSHIP (from Affirmations of Faith)*

Leader: The mantle is passed: from past to present, leader to leader,
generation to generation, teacher to student, parent to child, person to person.

ALL: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *(Romans 8:35)*

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,
whose holy faith we declare: *(A Modern Affirmation)*

**ALL: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all
that is, seen and unseen.** *(The Nicene Creed)*

Leader: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are
saved: *(Colossians 1:15)*

**ALL: There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for
all, to whom we testify.** *(1Timothy 2:5)*

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit, as the divine presence in our lives,

**ALL: We believe in one holy church, we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.** *(The Nicene Creed)*

Leader: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins,

ALL: Lord, we confess to you. Come, fill this moment and free us from our sin.

Thanks be to God.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION*

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures
are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.**

Amen. *(UMH, p 6)*

SCRIPTURE Mark 3:13-14

HOMILY: “CALLED BY CHRIST”

Rev Dr Norman (Ned) DeWire,

retired elder West Ohio Conference, third President of MTSO

PRESENTATION BY THE CHOIR “Jesus, the Light of the World”

from African American Heritage Hymnal

Director of Music, Margaret VanSickle

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION

WORDS TO THE GRADUATES Rev Dr Joon-Sik Park, COSSO Director

RESPONSIVE READING:

Director: Beloved in Christ, the Church is the Body of Christ, and we are God's holy people, called by name and guided by the Holy Spirit.

All: We are received into the Church at baptism and called to proclaim the mighty acts of God in the name of Jesus Christ, and to serve him in the Church and in the world.

Director: God sent us a Savior and called the apostles to witness to his words and deeds. Through him, the Church was formed. Now God has called you into ministry with The United Methodist Church.

All: We honor this tradition and celebrate our call to ministry, as servants of the Church, as pastors, preachers, teachers, and bearers of God's word.

Director: In all things, God's grace is sufficient to strengthen you, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: By the same Spirit, God has called each of us. It is with joy and honor that we stand with these graduates, and celebrate their completion of the Course of Study.

Director: May God increase in you the gifts of grace for your life and ministry.

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES (materials are prepared for graduation)

Director: Who is presented for graduation from the Course of Study?

Coordinator: I present these students for graduation:

KENNETH (Kenn) CURREN

REBECCA (Becky) EDWARDS

DANIEL LAMPHIER

DEBORAH (Deb) ROUSSELLE

KELLY STERLING

WARREN VANDEWARK

JONI WILLIAMS

They have completed all requirements for the Course of Study, as set by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

CERTIFICATION (candidates comes forward, kneel/stand for blessing)

Blessing

In the name of Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we celebrate your graduation from the Course of Study. We commend you to your ministry as a Local Pastor in The United Methodist Church and pledge our continued prayers, encouragement and support.

Anointing

Rev Dr Rebeka Maples

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in all things you may do God's will in service to the church; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Certification

Terri Litchfield

Receive this certificate as a sign of your completion of the Course of Study.

Presentation of Gifts

Mary Wills

Receive this gift in honor of your graduation from the Course of Study.

LAYING ON OF HANDS (all are invited to come forward and lay hands on the graduates or touch the person near you as a sign of our unity in one body, the body of Christ)

Prayer: Gracious God, you are the Lord of all. We humbly place these graduates in your hands. Keep them and preserve them. Give them courage, patience, and vision to be your faithful servants and worthy leaders. Bless them with caring communities as they lead your Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Director: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare that you have graduated from the Course of Study. Remember your call. Preach the Good News. Be shepherds to the flock of Christ. And in all things, give God the glory, now and always.

HYMN (UMH) 593 “Here I Am Lord”

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
(Order of service for the season after Pentecost)

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

***CLOSING HYMN (UMH) 102 “Now Thank We All Our God”**

***SENDING FORTH**
UMH 886 “The World Methodist Social Affirmation”

*Resources: lines from the affirmations of faith are found in UMH 880-889;
Rev Dr Ned DeWire was on the World Methodist Council that wrote and proposed UMH 886,
“The World Methodist Social Affirmation.”*