

COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Weekend May 8-9, 2015

FRIDAY GATHERING

“Holy Ground”

“The space between a person doing their best to deliver a message of good news and the needy listener is holy ground.”

Fred Rogers, Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood.

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE - Exodus 3.1-6

A Call to Worship (Exodus 3)

L: Come take off your shoes

P: For where we stand is holy ground

L: Come love your neighbor and do good to all around you

P: For where we stand is holy ground

L: Come and respect the planet

P: For where we stand is holy ground

L: Love all that God gave us,

P: for we are all standing on holy ground



HOLY GROUND

Song – UMH #77 – “How Great Thou Art”

Opening Prayer

God, just as You called Moses so long ago, so You call each one of us to speak
and act on Your behalf in our world today.

Forgive us when we are hesitant to follow:

when we question Your call or make excuses for our abilities;

when we complain about our lack of time or hoard our resources.

Give us courage to step out in faith, to follow where You lead without hesitation or fear,
trusting that Your presence goes with us,
and that You will provide all that we need. Amen

Song – TFWS #2164 – “Sanctuary” (2X)

A Meditation on Holy Ground

Responses - TFWS #2272 – “Holy Ground” and “Sanctus” – TFWS #2257b

CLOSING PRAYER

Most loving God, who has given us holy ground, I pray that we may go out into the world so a difference can be made in the life of someone who needs us. I pray that we can work together to serve people who may never find their way to our Sunday morning pews. I pray that we will serve and listen and nurture. I pray that we will walk this holy ground together in a bold and brave way!
AMEN.

Song – TFWS #2130 – “The Summons”

BLESSING

Bibliography

Burgess, Ruth. *Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*. Glasgow: Wild Goose, 2006.

"Re:Worship." Re:Worship. Accessed April 22, 2015. <http://re-worship.blogspot.com>.

Macauley, Glendon. *Dirt, Mess and Danger: Liturgies & Worship Resources*. Glasgow: Wild Goose, 2011.

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SATURDAY MORNING PRAYERS:

Praise for the Awakening Hour

CALL TO MORNING PRAYER (Psalm 92:1-2)

L: You have turned our mourning into dancing!

You have taken away our funeral clothes and re-clothed us in joy,
so that our whole being—body, mind and soul— might sing praise to you and not be silent

P: To proclaim you love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

Song – TFWS #2164 – “Sanctuary” (2X)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, I find myself at the beginning of another day.

I do not know what it will bring.

Please help me to be ready for whatever it may be.

If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely.

If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly.

If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently.

If I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly.

I pray just for today, for these twenty-four hours,

for the ability to cooperate with others according to the way Jesus taught us to live.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

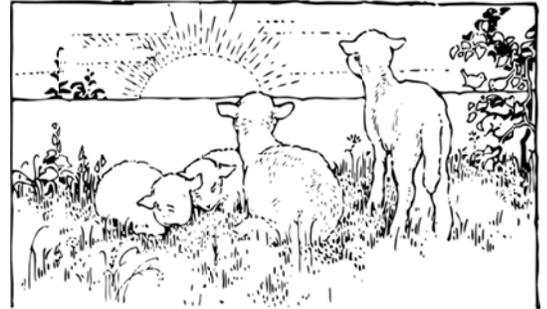
May these words that he taught us become more than words.

Please free my thinking and feelings and the thinking and feelings of others,
from all forms of self-will, self-centeredness, dishonesty, and deception.

Along with my brothers and sisters,

I need this freedom to make my choices today according to your desires.

Send your Spirit to inspire me in time of doubt and indecision so that, together, we can dance along
your path. Amen.



Reflection – Dancing With the Creator

Response Hymn - UMH #261 – “Lord of the Dance”

BLESSING

Go out into the world to join God
in the work of love, of peace, of justice.

Take in the breath of life.

Take off your shoes.

Know that you are ever in the presence
of the Holy and Living God.

Go in peace. **Amen.**

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SATURDAY CELEBRATION

“Holy Ground”

A CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION & EUCHARIST

Gathering Music

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: This place for us is Holy Ground.

P: The place where we sing songs of praise to the Lord,

L: and repeat the stories of faith that inspire us to respond to Christ’s love.

P: God called us here,

L: in whispering winds and in burning flames,

P: and with his presence disarms us of the barriers we have placed around us.

L: Instead God meets us in our vulnerability, our humanity.

P: Let us worship the Lord.



HOLY GROUND

Invocation

O God, whose holiness is not limited to grand cathedrals or saintly persons, spectacular mountains or mountain-moving leaders; O God, whose holiness is often discovered in simple everyday places and simple everyday folk, plant Your holiness in this place, in us now. Grow us this hour, that we might flower, right where we are, with the beauty of Your holiness. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

Song – UMH #64 – “Holy, Holy, Holy”

THE WORD & RESPONSE

The Gospel of John 15:9-17

Reflection: “Chosen and Appointed”

by Rev. Dr. Thomas Rand, COSSO Faculty, Professor of Preaching,
Assistant to the Superintendent of Maumee Watershed District, UMC West Ohio

ANTHEM by COSSO CHOIR

Margaret VanSickle, Music Director

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION

Words to the Graduates

Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park, COSSO Director

Responsive Reading:

L: 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.

P: 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.

L: 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.

P: 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.

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

P: 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.

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

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

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

Coordinator: I present these candidates for graduation:

C. RUSSELL ABBOT

CYNTHIA MORRISON

STEPHEN BROWNING

CRAIG PAHL

KEVIN JOBE

MICHAEL SIMON

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

CERTIFICATION (each candidate comes forward and may kneel or stand for the blessing)

BLESSING & ANOINTING BY DIRECTOR:

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. 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 by COSSO Coordinator:

Terri Litchfield

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

Presentation of Bible by COSSO Assistant:

Mary Willis

Receive this Bible as a light to guide your way.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

(all are invited forward to lay hands on the graduates or touch the person near you as a sign of our connection in 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.

Let us congratulate these graduates. (all offer applause)

Song – UMH #593 – “Here I Am, Lord”

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Invitation:

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic prayers follow with people's response in "...the song of heaven:"

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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.

Prayers continue and all proclaim the "...mystery of faith:"

P: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Hymns TFWS #2260 "Let us be Bread"/ TFWS #2272 "Time Now to Gather"/
TFWS #2244 "People Need the Lord"

SENDING FORTH

Song – TFWS #2233 – "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

Blessing

L: May grace and peace be ours in abundance, in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

P: May we be thankful for simple things, for friendship, for health, for daily bread, for good news.

L: May we rise above the corruption of power and become participants in the divine nature.

P: May we go from this place to pursue goodness, wisdom, holiness and love.

L: God the Creator, call us to the work of the kingdom

P: God the Redeemer, keep us from stumbling

L: God the Sustainer, transform and inspire us.

ALL: Amen.

Bibliography

Burgess, Ruth. *Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*. Glasgow: Wild Goose, 2006.

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