

# Opening Worship

Thursday, June 2, 2016

1:30 p.m.



*To honor the difference and diversity in each experience and expression of God, the leadership involved in crafting this worship environment seeks to embody an expansive understanding of God in our language and music. For this reason we seek to use a wide range of images and names for God recognizing that our expression or description of God should not be limited to one image, gender, or culture. May you find yourself in the presence of God in this place today.*

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*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

## GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Safety & housekeeping)

Ms. Vicki Putney  
Benefits Officer

## GATHERING AT THE TABLE

*The table has been set. Jesus offers us an overflowing abundance of great things. It's time to gather at the table. There's a seat for you!*

PROCESSIONAL: *Holy, Holy, Holy*, UMH #64

InsideOut

Verse 1

Holy holy holy

Lord God Almighty

Early in the morning

Our song shall rise to Thee

Holy holy holy

Merciful and mighty

God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity

Verse 2

Holy holy holy  
All the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before Thee  
Which wert and art  
And evermore shalt be

Verse 3

Holy holy holy  
Though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see  
Only Thou art holy  
There is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power  
In love and purity

Verse 4

Holy holy holy  
Lord God Almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth and sky and sea

Holy holy holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity

OPENING PRAYER

Rachel Ann Morse

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Prayer of Confession, from the Act of Repentance, 2016*

On behalf of our ancestors,

**we fall to our knees.**

On behalf of our people,

**we bow our heads.**

On behalf of our selves,

**we rend our hearts.**

**What have we done?**

Instead of listening

**we talked nonstop.**

Instead of loving others,

**we hoarded blessings.**

Instead of hearing the cries of our neighbors,

**we turned their cries around**

**and made it about us.**

Instead of honoring God's natural order

**we imposed our own order,  
we took too much for ourselves,  
we made love transactional,  
and we pretended like this was what you wanted from us.**

Knowledge beyond knowledge  
O God, you know.

Instead of confessing,  
Instead of repenting on behalf of our ancestors  
and on behalf of the systems from which we benefit  
and the history of our nation  
and the history of our church:  
**we have closed our eyes  
we have not spoken up  
we have cut ourselves off  
we have pretended like this was what you wanted from us.**

**God have mercy!**

**Free us in grace and open our hearts  
to receive the blessing of a new relationship.**

**Hold us accountable by your Spirit**

**to talk less and listen more**

**to take less and give more**

**to destroy less and heal more**

**to display less pride and more humility**

**And with your grace**

**may we enter into this time of repentance and reconciliation  
that you have created for us**

**out of darkness  
and chaos  
and water.**

**With your soaring Spirit pull us together  
in the birth of something new.**

*SONG: A Place at the Table*

Verse 1

For everyone born, a place at the table  
For everyone born, clean water and bread;  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing  
For everyone born, a star overhead.

Chorus

And God will delight  
When we are creators of justice and joy;  
Yes, God will delight  
When we are creators of justice,  
Justice and joy.

Verse 2

For woman and man, a place at the table  
Revising the roles, deciding the share;  
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power  
For woman and man, a system that's fair.

Chorus

### Verse 3

For young and for old, a place at the table  
A voice to be heard, a part in the song;  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled  
For young and for old, the right to belong.

### Chorus

### Verse 4

For just and unjust, a place at the table  
Abuser, abused, with need to forgive;  
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy  
For just and unjust, a new way to live.

### Chorus

### Verse 5

For everyone born, a place at the table  
To live without fear, and simply to be;  
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship  
For everyone born, the right to be free.

### Chorus (x2)

SPECIAL OFFERING: *Africa 360* Jenni Piatt, Heuvelton UMC  
Northern Flow District

*Separate offerings were previously taken at our local churches to support The United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria and Africa University Endowed Scholarship campaigns. We now gather these gifts together into one offering.*

\*OFFERING SONG: Africa 360 Anthem  
(to the tune of *He Lives*, UMH #310)

For Africa 360  
God calls us all to give.  
To educate new leaders  
And help all children live!  
Death, poverty are fading,  
For God has found a way,  
To save the lives of children  
We stand and say...

We give, we give,  
Because it is God's plan  
Eradicate malaria  
From earth. God knows we can!  
We give, we give  
From deep within our heart.  
Through Africa 360,  
We give to do our part!

WORDS OF BLESSING

Jenni Piatt

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:2-21

BISHOP WEBB'S ADDRESS: *The Foundation of Thanks*

INTERACTIVE RESPONSE

CLOSING SONG: *To God Be the Glory*, UMH #98      InsideOut

Verse 1

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

Verse 2

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;

the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Verse 3

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

BLESSING

Bishop Mark J. Webb

RESESSIONAL

## Music

- *Holy, Holy, Holy*, The United Methodist Hymnal #64; Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John Bacchus Dykes
- *A Place at the Table*, by Shirley Erena Murray, © 1998, Hope Publishing Co.
- *Africa 360 Anthem* (to the tune of *He Lives*, UMH #310), written by Laurel O'Connor
- *To God Be the Glory*, The United Methodist Hymnal #98, Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

Music used with permission, CCLI #11004960

## Acknowledgements

**Worship Planning Team:** The Rev. Gregg Stierheim, Chair; Nancy Dibelius; The Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding; The Rev. Rachel Morse; Ashley Riddell; The Rev. Chad Sayers; Nairobi Smith; Nancy Wilson

**Musicians:** Nairobi Smith; Brad Schilling; Louis Chabrier; David Wood; Iain Cockram; Hayden Longest; Kelsey Rosenblum

**Opening Worship Prayer and Prayer of Confession:** The Rev. Rachel Morse