

## A SERVICE OF SENDING

Tuesday, June 5 | 3:15 PM

+ You are invited to stand. | **Bold** words are read responsively.

+ GATHERING MUSIC

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

TFWS 2153

**I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**  
**I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**  
**I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**  
**I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**  
**I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"  
**God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

UMH 577; vv 1, 2, 4

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.**

GREETING<sup>1</sup>

For a time, we've gathered.

We've celebrated,

**hearing stories of new beginnings in faith,  
seeing the fruit of shared mission,  
and worshiping in spirit and in truth.**

We've contemplated,

**prayerfully considering our future and receiving reminders  
that God doing something new in and through us  
will require our venturing to unfamiliar places.**

We've learned,

**having been challenged in our understanding of disciple-making,  
and in our commitment to disciple-being;  
both invite us to see anew ourselves and those around us.**

Now, we prepare to depart:

**back to our churches,  
back to our communities,  
back to our mission fields.**

We leave having been commissioned

**to go readily,  
to make disciples indiscriminately,  
to baptize freely,  
to teach patiently.**

We will encounter struggles old and new:

**frustrations and setbacks of varying degrees,  
and hardships that test our resolve.**

But we don't go alone.

We go secure in the sufficiency of grace,

**in Jesus' promise to be with us always,  
in the leadership of God's ever-present Spirit,  
and in our common calling to witness to the Gospel  
through lives dedicated to service.**

All of these we come now to reaffirm

as we give thanks for the waters that have sealed us as God's own.

INTRODUCTION<sup>2</sup>

Sisters and brothers in Christ:

through the sacrament of baptism

God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,

water poured over 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Jason W. Jones, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Discipleship Ministries, "New Service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant."

Today we come to the waters,  
to renew our commitments in each other's presence  
to Christ who has raised us,  
to the Spirit who has birthed us,  
to the Creator who is doing a new thing in us,  
and to those who journey and work alongside us.

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

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

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

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

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

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,  
put our whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as our Lord,  
in union with the Church which Christ has opened  
to all people, with boundaries!**

Will you be living witnesses to the Gospel, individually and together,  
wherever you are, and in all that you do?

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

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in holy scripture?

**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole Church,  
as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty,  
in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
and in the Holy Spirit.**

### THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER<sup>3</sup>

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus  
will never die.

Your justice never fails; your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows.**

**Your Spirit blows where you will.**

**We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try.

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Discipleship Ministries.

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 no longer hear its sound,  
 and we forget its power.

We parch ourselves.

**We are dry and thirsty, God.**

**Come, refresh us!**

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Come upon these waters!

**Come upon these waters!**

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

**Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**

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

**Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.**

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

**Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

**Glory to you!**

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

**Glory to you!**

Eternal God, Three in One!

**All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

+ RECEIVING THE WATER

Scripture offers pictures of sprinkling with branches for purification and renewal.

Ezekiel 36 reads, "I will sprinkle clean water upon you,

and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;

I will remove from your body the heart of stone

and give you a heart of flesh."

Therefore it's in this way that we receive this water with gladness!

You are invited to stand.

Remember that you are baptized, and rejoice!

+ HYMN

"Baptized in Water"

TFWS 2248

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
 cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;  
 heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
 faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
born of one Father, we are his children,  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

Leader:

**We are children of God.  
May the Holy Spirit work within us,  
that having been born of water and the Spirit,  
we may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

+ FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS<sup>4</sup>

Holy God, send your Spirit upon the clergy and laity of the Memphis Annual Conference.  
Help them to be faithful in their service,  
wise in their leadership,  
and Christlike in their example.  
Bless all who engage in your work and service,  
giving each of us eyes to see all the people,  
hearts to love all the people,  
and hands to reach all the people.  
We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ HYMN

"A Wilderness Wandering People"  
**We are a wilderness wandering people  
on a journey of the soul;  
may we find our destination  
in our longing to be whole.  
Our holy God is calling to us;  
with Jesus by our side  
may compassion be our compass,  
may the Spirit be our guide.**

W&S 3113

**May we cherish all our children,  
let us heal our family's pain;  
help us cure our city's madness,  
let love and justice reign.  
Let them stand with one another  
in prayer and praise and song;  
we're the body of Christ together  
and we know that we belong.  
We belong. We belong. We belong.**

+ CLOSING WORDS & BENEDICTION

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<sup>4</sup> Jones, 2018.

Leading in Worship

Bishop William T. McAlilly

Rev. Amy Martin, song leader

Dr. Todd E. Hill, organist and pianist

Mr. Josh Shaw, Mr. Gerald Jones, Mrs. Roshella Jackson, liturgists

Rev. Josh McClurken

Rev. Camille Bradley

Rev. Shannon Pryor

Rev. Janean Tinsley

Rev. Daphne Moses