

MEMPHIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OPENING WORSHIP  
Monday, June 5, 2017  
8:45 a.m.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from *Chalice Worship* 71)

People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love –  
neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers –  
a community of kindred hearts.

People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know –  
strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends,  
the ones who need an outstretched hand.

People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here.  
In me, in you, in each of us,  
God's spirit shines for all to see.

People of God, come. Let us join our voices in praise  
to the God who gathers us and feeds us.

HYMNS        All Who Hunger (TFWS 2126)  
              Praise to the Lord the Almighty, vss. 1-4 (UMH 139)

OPENING PRAYER (adapted from "Prayer for Lent 5A" on re:Worship website)

God of all compassion,  
your breath alone brings life to weary souls.  
Pour out your Spirit upon us,  
that we may face all things  
with faith in the One who calls us  
to live and love abundantly. **Amen.**

HYMN Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, vs. 5 (UMH 139)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (from *The Africana Worship Book* 175)

**Lord, as we prepare to receive your word,  
help us, like students,  
to humble ourselves before you, our Teacher. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING        Ezekiel 37:1-14

*During the readings, the organist plays the music of "Breathe on Me, Breath of God." (UMH 420) Bamboo chimes are played during the reading to mimic the rattle of bones coming together, and metal chimes for the breath of life.*

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-23

*Organ music continues under the reading and the metal chimes are played at the mention of Jesus breathing on the disciples.*

HYMN            Breathe On Me, Breath of God (UMH 420)

SERMON        "As the Father Has Sent Me"            Rev. Randy Cooper

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE    adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*

With all our heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the world, the welfare of the Church,  
and the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For all laity, all clergy, and our bishop,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For every city and community, and for those who live in them,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For the good earth which God has given us,  
and for the wisdom and will to conserve it,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans,  
and for the sick and the suffering,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For the poor and the destitute, for prisoners and captives,  
and for all who remember and care for them,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For deliverance from violence, oppression, and degradation,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For lives marked by faith and by hope, lived without reproach,  
let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Lord, hear the prayers of your people;  
and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain fully  
to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### CONFESSION AND PARDON (adapted from *Present on Earth* 168)

As those who have been touched by your Son,  
as those who have been awakened by your Spirit,  
as those who have come together to do your work  
and yet as those who—  
despite our holy calling—  
are dry bones waiting to be enlivened,  
we ask for your grace and your mercy, O God.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.*  
(Lord, Have Mercy TFWS 2277)

Where our familiarity with the Gospel  
has desensitized us to its demanding truth;  
where our relationship with Christ  
has become more nostalgic than dynamic;  
where we have lost our Spirit-breath  
and become lifeless and self-serving,  
we ask for your grace and mercy, O God.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.*

Where we have regarded transformation as what we do  
rather than what Christ does;  
where we have regarded mission  
as charity to those beneath us  
rather than love toward those beside us;  
where our hands have been quick to give  
but our hearts have reluctant to receive,  
we ask for your grace and mercy, O God.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.*

On us,  
in us,  
for us,  
through us,  
around us,  
before us,  
and – if need be – despite us,  
we ask for your grace and your mercy, O God.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.*

Listen,  
for these are the words of Jesus Christ  
and they can be trusted.

“I did not come to call the righteous,  
but sinners.

Whoever does God’s will  
Is my mother and sister and brother.

Never mind what the others do...  
you...follow me.”

Thanks be to God  
who meets and mends us in Jesus.

ALL: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC “God Has Work for Us to Do” Mark A. Miller  
From *Roll Down, Justice! Sacred Songs and Social Justice* (Choristers Guild CGBK72)

DOXOLOGY (UMH 95)

GREAT THANKSGIVING (adapted from *BOW* 68-69)

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.

**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,  
creator of heaven and earth.

In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
like a lifeless valley filled with dry bones,  
your love remained steadfast.

Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers,

anointing them to speak your Word.  
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 glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blest is your Son Jesus Christ.  
At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him  
and declared him your beloved Son.  
With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations of sin.  
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.  
When the Lord Jesus appeared to the disciples in that locked room,  
he breathed on them and filled them with the your Spirit,  
and sent them into the world to serve you and neighbor.

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 the cup.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
so we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood,  
inspired and empowered by your Holy Spirit.

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 glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING (*Chalice Worship* 649)

**Loving God in Jesus Christ,  
with gratitude for your holy nourishment around this table,  
we dedicate:**  
**our lips to be the hopeful voice of Christ to the despairing;  
our hands to reach out in Christ's name to heal the broken;  
our feet to walk with Christ to visit those who are shunned;  
our bodies to be Christ's living sacrifice to break the power of death.**  
**Take us. Empower us. Use us. Amen.**

HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (TFWS 2241)

BLESSING (*Chalice Worship* 788)

God has breathed the breath of life into you.  
Blessed be God, and God's blessing be upon you.  
God has saved us from sin and death through grace.  
Blessed be God, and God's blessing be upon you.  
God has empowered us to serve others in Christ's name.  
Blessed be God, and God's blessing be upon you.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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Resources Used:

UMH – *The United Methodist Hymnal* (The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989)

TFWS – *The Faith We Sing* (Abingdon Press, 2000)

BOW – *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992)

*Chalice Praise* (Chalice Press, 1997)

*The Africana Worship Book* (Discipleship Resources, 2006)

*Present on Earth* (Wild Goose Resource Group, 2002)

*The Book of Common Prayer* (Church Publishing, 1999)

Re:Worship website ([re-worship.blogspot.ca/2014/03/prayer-for-lent-5a.html](http://re-worship.blogspot.ca/2014/03/prayer-for-lent-5a.html))