

**The Southeastern Jurisdiction
The United Methodist Church**

Opening Worship

A Service of Word and Table

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Gathering

Music for the Gathering

***Greeting**

The Rev. Dr. Dawn Chesser

Grace to you and peace
in the name of the Triune God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Litany for Hope and Unity

Leader: *Miss Molly McEntire, Florida Conference*

As we gather on your good earth,
in the light of your love and hope
We honor your holy name and remember

ALL

We remember

Leader: *Rev. Gray Southern, North Carolina Conference*

We are not the first to come this way
We walk the path of native ancestors
Who respected your land, your creatures,
and their place in your world

ALL:

We remember

Thank you for their lessons

Teach us to care for your creation, including each other

Leader: *Ms. Martha Stokes, Virginia Conference*

We are not the first to come this way
We walk the path of colonizers
Who disrespected your children, stole from your children,
bought and sold your children

ALL

**We remember
Their legacy haunts us still
Free us from slavery to sin and death**

Leader *Judge Lew Nicholls, Kentucky Conference*

We are not the first to come this way
We walk the path of immigrants and refugees
Who cross desert and mountain, river and sea
in search of safety and opportunity, freedom and home

ALL

**We remember
We share their story, their hopes and dreams
Show us how to welcome and share**

Leader: *Rev. Harriet Bryan, Tennessee Conference*

We are not the first to come this way
We walk the path of Coke and Asbury
Who loved your Word, took up their cross,
and spread your Good News across this region

ALL

**We remember
Their witness calls us to faith and action
Fill us with your holy fire**

Leader: *Mr. Timothy Crisler, Mississippi Conference*

We remember we are made in your image
We remember we are dust and to dust we shall return

ALL
We remember
Common soil, common ground
Make us one in our humility
Make us one in our diversity
Make us one in you

Make Us One

Others Participating in the Pouring of Soil:

Dr. Steven Furr, Alabama-West Florida Conference

Mr. David Reed, Memphis Conference

Mr. Steve Lyles, North Alabama Conference

Rev. David Graves, Holston Conference

Mr. Mathew Pinson, North Georgia Conference

Mrs. Charlotte Davis, Red Bird Missionary Conference

Mr. Bill Hatcher, South Georgia Conference

Rev. Tim McClendon, South Carolina Conference

Mrs. Jennifer Davis, Western North Carolina Conference

***Hymn of Praise**

Holy, Holy, Holy

UMH 64

Proclamation and Response

Prayer for Illumination

Iliana Rosario

Virginia Annual Conference

***Scripture Reading**

John 15:1-12

Dr. Chesser

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my

love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Sermon

Focus on Love

Bishop James King

South Georgia Annual Conference

The Congregation Responds with Prayers and Singing

The Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

Bishop B. Michael Watson, Celebrant

North Georgia Annual Conference

Christ invites to his table all who love him,
Who earnestly repent of their sin
And seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

ONE:

Bishop Watson

As we gather on your good earth,
before the bounty of your Word and Table,
and the majesty of your holy presence,
We remember and repent

ALL:

**Forgive us, Abiding One,
We keep you at a distance
We defy your bidding
We make it harder for people to know you**

**Forgive us, Saving One,
We deny our weakness**

**We wallow in our weakness
We take advantage of the weakness of others**

**Forgive us, Holy One,
We refuse your counsel
We waste your gifts
We withhold your compassion from others**

Break through

**Break through our hardened views,
lest the evil one win the day
Break through our gravelly hearts
lest we have no root and wither to nothing
Break through our thorny ways
lest our agendas and fears
choke the promise of your word
and smother a harvest worthy of your Name**

Silent Confession

Assurance:

Psalms 103:8-14 CEB

Bishop Watson

Hear the good news—
The LORD is compassionate and merciful,
very patient, and full of faithful love.
God won't always play the judge;
he won't be angry forever.
He doesn't deal with us according to our sin
or repay us according to our wrongdoing,
because as high as heaven is above the earth,
that's how large God's faithful love is for those who honor him.
As far as east is from west—
that's how far God has removed our sin from us.
Like a parent feels compassion for their children—
that's how the LORD feels compassion for those who honor him.
Because God knows how we're made,
God remembers we're just dust.

ALL:
We remember and rejoice.
Glory to God! Amen!

Silence

Pardon

Bishop Watson

Leader:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

CONGREGATION:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Alleluia!

ALL:
Amen.

The Offering *They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love* TFWS 2223

*Please watch the video and follow the song leader as we receive our offering for the
Pan- Methodist Campaign for Children and Poverty.*

The Deacon prepares the Table.

The Celebrant offers Thanksgiving.

The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop Watson

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 our God.
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.

You built your Church on the foundation
of the apostles and prophets,
and instituted a holy ministry

so that your prophetic and apostolic Word
might be heard in the Church and in the world
until the end of time.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise
Your name and join the unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Those who are standing may be seated. Bishop Watson continues the prayer.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
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 come to save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
He promised to be with them always,
and sent the Holy Spirit to lead them.

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 to 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 has risen.

Christ will come again.

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

Amen, Amen, Amen.

And now with the confidence of children of God, let us boldly pray:

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Giving the Bread and Cup

All are invited to one of the communion stations as directed.

Please come to a station from your left, returning to your seat by your right.

Communion servers are the presiding and retired bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

As others are receiving communion, all are invited to join in singing the following hymns and songs:

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Watson and People

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your
Spirit and give ourselves for others;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Hymn Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

UMH 583

Sending Forth

Nora Colmenares

Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Proclaim the gospel throughout the earth in all you do or say!
Serve God with gladness, in deeds of justice and mercy!

We are sent in the name and with the power of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Blessing

Bishop Watson

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Postlude

Worship Leadership

Preacher: Bishop James King	<i>South Georgia Conference</i>
Celebrant: Bishop Mike Watson	<i>North Georgia Conference</i>
Assisting Deacon: Nora Colmenares	<i>North Georgia Conference</i>

Directors of the Liturgy

Dr. Dawn Chesser	<i>Holston Conference</i>
Dr. Sam Persons-Parkes	<i>Alabama-West Florida Conference</i>

Opening Litany and Prayer of Confession

Written by Rev. Lisa Degrenia	<i>Florida Conference</i>
-------------------------------	---------------------------

Communion Servers

The Presiding and Retired Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction

Worship Design

Stanton Adams	<i>South Carolina Conference</i>
---------------	----------------------------------

Spanish Translation

Martha Rovira-Raber	<i>Alabama-West Florida Conference</i>
---------------------	--

Music Leadership

Song Leader: Robert McMichael	<i>Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church Marietta, Georgia</i>
Piano: Jarvis Wilson	<i>Hillside International Truth Center Atlanta, Georgia</i>
Organ: Chuck R. Newman	<i>Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church Marietta, Georgia</i>