



Susquehanna Conference

The United Methodist Church

Susquehanna Conference Shared Worship Service

February 14, 2021

Welcome: (Rev. Dr. Paul Amara, Williamsport District Superintendent)

Good morning everyone! Welcome to Worship! My name is Paul Amara, the Williamsport District Superintendent for the Susquehanna Conference of the UMC. I am excited to bring greetings from Bishop Park and the entire cabinet to all congregations participating in this shared service today. I'm excited that we can gather in this way as brothers and sisters across central Pennsylvania. This time of fellowship and praise has been created in deep appreciation for all local church teams who have been working so hard during the challenge of COVID. We pray that this joint service will be an opportunity for renewal and Sabbath for you as we gather to be together with God.

Call To Worship: (Rev. Kevin Witt, Director of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders)

We come to you today, Oh Creator, as people made in your image. Lord, give us that same spark of divine creativity so we can join you in bringing life to the world and to each other. As your beloved children, help us never forget who we are. May we with great purpose live out the goodness that produces love, healing, and wholeness. We of many colors, many backgrounds, many abilities, and many experiences are one body in Christ. Our oneness reflects the wide embrace of your love for all people everywhere. "When one suffers, we all suffer. When one rejoices, we all rejoice" You are the source of our very lives. We come to thank you for the many gifts we receive each day to sustain us and inspire us. We come to hear your call again to live the way of love – "to do justice, to love kindly and to walk humbly with you."

Opening Hymn/Song: (Salt 'N Light Team)

God of Justice

God of Justice,
Savior to all.

Came to rescue the weak and the poor.
Chose to serve and not be served.

Jesus, You have called us.
Freely we've received
Now, freely we will give.

We must go.
Live to feed the hungry.
Stand beside the broken.
We must go.
Stepping forward.
Keep us from just singing.
Move us into action.
We must go.

To act justly everyday.
Loving mercy in everyway.

Walking humbly before You, God.

You have shown us what You require.
Freely we've received.
Now, freely we will give.

We must go.
Live to feed the hungry.
Stand beside the broken.
We must go.
Stepping forward.
Keep us from just singing.
Move us into action.
We must go.

Fill us up and send us out.
Fill us up and send us out.
Fill us up and send us out, Lord. (x4)

Acting justly.
Loving mercy.
We must go.
We must go.

To the broken.
And the hurting.
We must go.
We must go.

We must go.
Live to feed the hungry.
Stand beside the broken.
We must go.
Stepping forward.
Keep us from just singing.
Move us into action.
We must go.

(CCLI Song #4447128 – Used with permission through CCLI)

Scripture Reading One: (Cole Goodman, Member of the Journey Church UMC)

Matthew 22:34-40 The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Prayer of Confession and Inspiration: (Hannah Pratt Sledge, Pastor of Communications & Outreach with Aldersgate UMC Mechanicsburg)

God, You are Love. You hold us dear even when we fail to live out Christ’s teachings. Out of love you call us back to a renewal of our minds and our actions. We confess that sometimes we react out of emotion without taking the sacred space to seek your guidance. Sometimes we hold on to what others need, because we are afraid we might not have all we want. There is a tendency to muffle the voices of those who are suffering, because it may require a change in us

or how we live. Change is hard. Sometimes we are so tired from majoring in minors that we have little left for what is truly meaningful and important.

Forgive us God for veering from the way of Jesus. Inspire us Holy Spirit to awaken and live more generously for the good of all. Inspire us to trust how love works - how love exists as it flows from one to another in relationships we extend to friends, strangers and even enemies. The natural consequences of sin are so predictable. Where love is absent suffering, division, racism, hopelessness, greed, destruction and even death abound. Give us the wisdom and the heart to repent – to turn and choose life – to choose love. Amen

Scripture Reading Two: (Rev. Dr. Paul Amara)

Luke 10:30-35

³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii,^[a] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’

Sermon: (Joyce Davis, Susquehanna Conference Lay Leader)

The Power of One Samaritan

Hymn/Song: (Salt 'N Light Team)

They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.
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Prayer of Generosity (Rev. Kevin Witt)

Lord Jesus you have shown us the power of one Samaritan who lives deeply from compassion and generosity. As we give our gifts today to our local community of faith, may these offerings be one of the many ways we express our deep care for others. Use these gifts for the good you intend for the world as we follow Your lead. Keep our eyes and our hearts open, so that we can live as a good neighbor who stops to be in relationship with those who are hurting. Thank you for walking with us through both the joys and the hardships of life. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Amen.

Sending Forth: (Cole Goodman)

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Closing Song and Dance (Salt 'N Light Team)

For the Sake of the World

I'm laying down my life

I'm giving up control

I'm never looking back

I surrender all

I'm living for Your glory on the earth

This passion in my heart

This stirring in my soul

To see the nations bow

For all the world to know

I'm living for Your glory on the earth

For the sake of the world burn like a fire in me

Light a flame in my soul for every eye to see

For the sake of the world burn like a fire in me

For every knee to bow down

For every heart to believe

For every voice to cry out

Burn like a fire in me

For every tongue to confess

You alone are the King

You are the hope of the earth

Burn like a fire in me

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