



PRAYER VIGIL FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Community United Methodist Church

May 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM

OPENING PRAYER

ALL: God of grace and glory, as we approach these days of coming together to conference, favor us with your presence. Pour out your Holy Spirit to bless, to cleanse our hearts and minds, to open our spirits to the unseen possibilities before us. Guide each of our delegates to seek to understand one another with humility, gentleness, and care. Make us passionate for your kingdom and your vision of what this world can be. Renew us as a church in our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Amen.

(written by Rev. Laurie Kantonen, Hubbard UMC)

SONG "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

SCRIPTURE READING - Ephesians 4:1-16

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- **Theme** - We Are One: United to Love
- **Mission Focus** - On May 30, the attendees of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be invited to join The United Methodist Church's Meal Packaging Event, in the movement to end hunger by the year 2030. Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Our mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.
- **Road to Love by Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling** - "The road to love inherently holds this truth: we are all saints and sinners. We have the capacity within us to love without bounds and we are ruled at times by fear. But the Love of Christ is what permeates all of it. In this powerful opening time of worship, we will remember our common need to be cleansed, our common baptism, and our common call to love."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: Confession is the dumping out of the stuff that we are holding onto, that is also in the way of receiving the grace of God. Let us go to the Lord, with confession for ourselves and for all humanity.

ALL: We want to go to the mountaintop with you, Jesus. But we are too burdened to climb that road. We keep score. Whether we claim victory or loss, enemies are made. Remove from us the splinters in our own eyes. Remove from us the harsh words we are planning to say. Strip us clean from every ounce of pride that finds joy in the sorrow of another. When our burden is laid down, place our gaze upon the light that pierces the darkness. Free us to be the creatures made in the image of God. Free us to honor one another. Free us to know you, and to know one another in the forgiveness we give and receive. We pray in your Holy Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

LEADER: Hear this GOOD NEWS: You are forgiven. You are set free. The love of Jesus poured out for ALL is the love that claims you in grace. Go and sin no more. We are forgiven. We are set free. Amazing grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 103

SONG "What Wondrous Love Is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.*

SCRIPTURE READING - John 17:6-11

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pray for the Annual Conference Committees and those impacted by the decisions being made.

Pray for our United Methodist Leaders: Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, the Cabinet, Annapolis District Superintendent Rebecca Iannicelli, Lay Leaders, and Pastors.

Pray for the mission, vision and passion of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC and Community UMC.

Pray for your own grace and guidance to “go and make disciples” in your own local context.

SONG “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 man's dignity and save each man's pride.*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.*

BENEDICTION

PRAYER GUIDE FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY PRAYER FOCUS (Scripture: Colossians 2:1-15)

- Clergy Executive Session & Laity Session from 1:30 - 5:00 PM
- Opening Worship “Road to Love” at 7:00 PM

THURSDAY PRAYER FOCUS (Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8-17)

- Morning Bible Study by Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle from 8:30 - 9:30 AM
- Holy Conferencing from 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Plenary Session from 2:00 - 5:00 PM
- Memorial Worship Service at 7:00 PM

FRIDAY PRAYER FOCUS (Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9)

- Morning Bible Study from 8:30 - 9:30 AM
- Plenary Session from 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
- Ordination Service at 7:00 PM

SATURDAY PRAYER FOCUS (Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17)

- Opening Experience led by BWC Youth and Young Adults at 9:00 AM
- Plenary with Mark DeVries, President of Ministry Architects at 9:45 AM
- Presentation of the Strategic Plan by the Young People’s Ministry Board at 10:15 AM
- Celebration of Confirmands at 2:15 PM
- Travel Mercies for Conference Attendees at 4:00 PM