

when they prayed ... like mary magdalene

WHEN GRIEVING HEARTS SEEK JESUS, GOD REVIVES HOPE.

2023 Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference
Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion
June 12 – 11:00 AM

GOD GATHERS THE SCATTERED

Prelude

Processional Hymn *I Feel Jesus in This Place + Sanctuary*

Call to Worship

Rev. David Garvin
Deacon in Full Connection

We rejoice as we celebrate the lives of those faithful servants
who have paved the way for us
through their teachings and acts of service.

**We are thankful for the great company of all those
who have finished their course in faith.**

We celebrate as we remember their commitment to sharing the Gospel.

**May we continue in our call with constancy,
trusting in God's promise of eternal life,
confident that one day we will be united with those who have gone before us.**

We rejoice as heirs of this expectation and hope.

We rejoice as heirs of this promise of God!

Come let us worship the Eternal One!

GOD SPEAKS THE WORD WE NEED

Prayer for Illumination

Clara Ester
Deaconess

Scripture Reading John 20:11-18; Hebrews 12:1-3 (NRSV)

Sermon

Rev. Christina Shaver
Elder in Full Connection, St. Paul UMC

GOD EMPOWERS US TO RESPOND

Musical Offering

Pray

Gentle Spirits Gospel Choir

Moment of Silent Reflection

Invitation, Confession, and Assurance of Pardon

Bishop David Graves

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

**Compassionate God,
No one escapes being wounded in this world.**

**Our individual pain sometimes does not want to go away.
Yet we are called to bring that pain home to you.
Help us to want to bring our pain home where it belongs,
in your Presence for healing.
Forgive us for not believing
that you can rebuild a life or a community of faith.
Because of our low expectations,
we miss the grace given by the God of all possibilities.
Forgive us and piece us together
so that we can comfort those in trouble
with the same comfort we have received from you.
Forgive us we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

[Leader continues...]

In the name of the risen Christ, you are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen!

The Peace

Hymn

Majesty

UMH 176

GOD INVITES US TO THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop Graves

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[Celebrant continues prayer...]

**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.

[Celebrant continues prayer...]

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Rev. Ed Shirley

Elder in Full Connection, Greenville

Member, AWF Conference Commission on Archives and History

Renew our communion with all your saints, especially these whom we name before you—

{Following are those who have died between May 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023}

Rev. Jerry Arhelger
Rev. Richard E. "Dick" Brooks
Ann S. Calhoun
Rev. James P. "Jim" Dannelly, Jr.
Rev. Esmer L. Davis
Ella Dean Ellisor
Jane M. Ennis
Rev. Julian "Walker" Epps
Edith "Edie" Y. Fuller
Rev. Leonard L. Howell, Jr.

Tina Sue W. Lane
Rev. Dr. Hays McKay, Jr.
Rev. Frederick G. Outlaw
Barbara Ann Rodgers-Hendricks
Rev. Richard A. Rouse
Polly Scott
Rev. Marcus H. Smith
Rev. Frank "Allen" Tucker
Rev. Marvin K. "Chappy" Vickers

...and all those whom we name in our hearts this day...

[Those who have died following April 30, 2023, will be memorialized at the 2024 Annual Conference Service of Remembrance.

Celebrant continues prayer...]

...until you come again in glory and we eat with you in your kingdom,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. **Amen.**¹

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion

Center of My Joy

Gentle Spirits Gospel Choir

Prayer Following Communion

Bishop Graves

GOD SENDS US TO THE WORLD

Hymn

Excellent Is Your Name

Gentle Spirits Gospel Choir

Commission

Rev. David Garvin

Benediction

Bishop David Graves

Go now in beloved communion with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Postlude

**This worship service was prepared by the
Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference Worship Planning Team**

Preacher & Celebrant: Bishop David Graves

Music Leadership: Rev. Darrin Isaac & Jarvis Wilson

Planning Team Members:

Rev. Dana Pender Brady

Celeste Eubanks

Rev. Darrin Issac

Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes

Rev. Michele Statkewicz

Rev. Gloria Wilson

¹Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic Prayers* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2016), 156–57.