Participants*:
Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer
Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif, Preacher
Ms. Shannon Spencer, Conference Lay Leader
Rev. Meshach Kanyion, Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry
Rev. Donnetta Peaks
Rev. Dave Weaver
Rev. Dr. Deborah Stevens
Scott Henning, Vocalist
Tina Matteson, Vocalist
Dean Altstaetter, Organist
Rev. Linda Middelberg
Rev. Justin Williams, Chair of Annual Conference Worship
Prof. Cynthia Lockhart, Altar Design

Greeting
Rev. Justin Williams

Prelude
Tocatta No. 5 (To God Be the Glory)
Dean Altstaetter

Call to Worship
Rev. Donnetta Peaks

Leader: Come to Christ, that living stone,
Rejected by the world,
but in God’s sight chosen and precious.

All: We have responded to God’s call, and seek to be
built into a spiritual house,
A living reminder of God’s presence on earth.

Leader: Once we were no people, but now we are God’s
gentle crazy,
Called out of darkness into God’s marvelous light.
Therefore we sing with the church in all ages:

All: Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer.
By your mercy we have been born anew to a living
hope
Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead.

The United Methodist Book of Worship 456; Ruth Duck

Hymn of Praise
“Forward Through the Ages”
Scott Henning

Prayer
Rev. Donnetta Peaks

O Creator and mighty God,
You have promised strength for the weak,
rest for the laborers, light for the way,

grace for the trials, help from above,
unfailing sympathy, undying love.

O Creator and mighty God,
help us to continue in your promise. Amen

The United Methodist Book of Worship; 524; Trad.

Introduction of Speaker
Bishop Palmer

Scripture
2 Timothy 1:8-14
Bishop Palmer

Sermon
Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif

Recognition of Retirees
Shannon Spencer

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we celebrate the
faithful service of the hundreds of years of ministry offered by
this retirement class and their spouses. On behalf of all those
in our local congregations, and the many other places of your
service outside the local church, we thank you for your faith-filled
leadership; for the ways you have led us to walk in trust beyond
our fears, and all you have done to invite us into God’s assurance,
hope, and love.

Vice
Rev. Meshach Kanyion

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, which has received
the requests of these persons, and on behalf of the Clergy
Session, which has granted their requests on May 19, 2021,
we honor and present these clergy who are entering the retired
relationship with our Annual Conference.
LOCAL PASTORS
Carrie Ator-James
Jamie Gill
Timothy Rash Sr.
Euggle Robertson
Donald Trumbull
Rebecca Zurcher

PROVISIONAL MEMBER
L.D. “Doug” Ervin

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
David Weaver

SERVING FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION
James Marshall

DEACONS & ELDERS IN FULL CONNECTION
John S. Adams
William Bentley
George Brewer
Larry Brown
Brandon (Tad) Grover
Melonie Harnish
Mark Hollinger
Beverly Hume
Janice Johnson
Spencer Keech
John Keeny
David Kepple
Kurtis King
Charles Martindell
Karen Martindell
Wilsonia McLean
Thomas Mellott
Dennis Mohler
Diann O’Bryant
Michael Revord
Mark Rowland
Jon Sayers
Daniel Schilling
Rae Lynn Schleif
Deborah Stevens
Paula Stewart
William Lee Strawhun Jr.
Russell Tichenor
Nancy Turner
Mark Weatherman
Barbara Wiechel

Retiree Address

Bishop Palmer
Shannon Spencer

Bishop Palmer:
Brothers and Sisters in Christ, your journey began in local congregations where the Spirit of God was upon you; you were called, affirmed, prepared, equipped, and sent to preach to the brokenhearted, to visit the captive, to anoint those who were bruised. These things you have done.

Shannon Spencer:
We thank God for the communities of faith in which the Word of God called forth a response from you. Countless persons have depended upon you. In the providence of God, you found that God teaches and heals through both suffering and joy.

Bishop Palmer:
At your ordination you received the authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the Church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, to Order the life of the church, and to lead God’s people in ministries of compassion and justice, following God’s call to lead the church into the world.

You were charged to equip the people of God, and to lead God’s people to embody the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world.

By God’s grace you did many things that seemed beyond your power.

Shannon Spencer:
We thank God that you were given vision and faithfulness. Death and illness have not come on schedule. The truth has not always been easy to preach. The church has not been easily ordered. We know something of the grace by which you have lived, and we thank God for your vision and perseverance.

Bishop Palmer:
Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you.

Continue to be true to your calling.

May God’s love and power be with you always.

Let us pray:

God of grace, it is you who fill your servants with vision and empower them with your Spirit.

We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men and for the ways you have ministered to congregations, communities and to the world through them.

Give them now a sense of your abiding presence, that they may continue in love and service to you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit abides, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Special Music  
*Precious Lord Take My Hand/Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

Scott Henning  
Tina Matteson  
Dean Altstaetter

Offering of Ministry

**Rev. David Weaver:**

In the book of Kings, we read of the prophet Elijah’s ministry. The mantle, symbolic of mission to God, fell upon the younger prophet, Elisha, and the spirit of Elijah rested upon Elisha.

Today, we affirm that ministry is sustained generation to generation by God’s Spirit. We give thanks for those from whom we inherited the mantle of ministry, and we give thanks for the people of God who have walked this journey with us. We confess that we did not always do as we should, and we sometimes did what we should not do. We give thanks for the grace of God and the forgiveness of others.

**Rev. Dr. Deborah Stevens:**

As we enter into the retired relationship, we extend our blessing to the next generations of those upon whom the mantle will fall. May the spirit be poured out upon them in a double share that they and the church might be sustained through the ages for sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We commend ministry to all those appointed to serve, newly appointed and continuing, as you take up the mantle of ministry again and anew, with these words from Paul, recorded in Ephesians 4: 1-6:

**Rev. David Weaver**

I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Rev. Weaver and Rev. Stevens:**

There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all, and through all and in all.

Closing Hymn  
*“Great is Thy Faithfulness”*

Scott Henning  
Tina Matteson  
Dean Altstaetter

Dismissal with Blessing  
*Bishop Palmer*

For everything there is a season,  
a time for every matter under heaven.  
So, too, there is a time for movement, new adventure,  
fields of service not yet touched.  
With love, we send you forth in the Spirit of John Wesley:  
May the world be your parish.

**Shannon Spencer lec**  

Go into the world and respond to the love of Christ in all you do.  
Live out the vision God is giving you.  
May God’s grace, mercy, and peace be with you, and may you be channels of divine mercy, grace and peace to the world wherever you may be! Amen.

Postlude  
*“Oh Happy Day”*

Dean Altstaetter