

HOSTED BY
ARBORLAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND THE EAST DISTRICT

SEPT. 17, 2022



SPECIAL CALLED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**REIMAGINE
DISCIPLESHIP**

**MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD**

WORSHIP

Response to the Word

The Apostles' Creed

Bishop Saenz

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead;**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Clifton Howard

The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop Saenz / Dr. Chris Mesa

Invitation

Christ our Lord 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

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader to people: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

Leader and people: **Glory to God. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

All, including the pastors, exchange signs and words of God's peace.

OFFERING

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Today's offering will go to Arborlawn UMC to help defray the costs of today's Annual Conference session.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed the sky and the sea; You gave shape and substance to every living thing. Your creative power brought all things into existence, and all humanity is touched by your common calling.

You called Miriam and Moses. You called Abraham and Abigail. You called Priscilla and Peter. You called Elijah and Elizabeth.

You called Paul: summoning him out of his former identity as Saul and into new identity in Christ.

You called Barnabas: summoning him out of his former life in Cyprus and into new leadership in Jerusalem. Both these leaders loved you and served you faithfully.

And when the division between the two became sharp, and they parted company, your Spirit was abundant with them both, empowering their ministries and even making possible genuine respect and affection for one another.

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

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, and recovery of sight to the blind, to undivide kingdoms divided against themselves, and to set the captives free.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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 for 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 is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

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.**

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

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Hymn

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

ACCEPTANCE

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

Order of the Day

Rev. Fred Bates

Disaffiliation Resolutions

Parting Rite and Commendation

Bishop Saenz

Bishop: Like Peter and Paul, Paul and Barnabas, and the first ecumenical council of the first-century church, we have reached the point at which we feel called to continue our faith journeys separately. Though our paths diverge, we acknowledge that:

People: There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. (Eph. 4:4-7)

As we part, we do so with mercy, recognizing the grace entrusted to each in our Lord Jesus Christ and extending to one another the right hand of fellowship.

CTC Members stand:

CTC Members: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brothers and sisters in Holy Spirit.

CTC Members are seated. Departing Members stand:

Departing Members: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brothers and sisters in Holy Spirit.

Departing Members are seated.

Bishop: Let us pray. Mighty God, in Jesus Christ you reconcile all people through your body tortured on a cross. Raise us to new life in you. As we scatter to spread the good news, in different places, heal the scars of our division. Bind up the wounds of the brokenhearted and gather us all beneath your healing wings of compassion that we may each and all stand as witnesses to your great love in Jesus Christ. Hear us now as we pray for one another.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

"God Be with You till We Meet Again"

RANDOLPH

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide,
uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you
till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide
you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet
again. *Refrain*

God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick
confound you, put his arms unfailing round you; God be with you
till we meet again. *Refrain*

God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

Charge and Blessing

Bishop Saenz

As we depart, may we do so like the disciples released from the fear of the upper room with the words of our risen Lord ringing in our ears: "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me. I am sending you." May we go in love, may we go in faith, may we go in hope, may we go in joy and may we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace." Amen. (Num. 6:24-26)

Postlude

Peggy Graff

Recess

Light refreshments are available in the Lower Commons

Order of the Day

2023 Budget

Gary Sult

Hymn

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

Dismissal and Blessing

Bishop Saenz



Our Deepest Appreciation to Today's Leaders:

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.
Resident Bishop, Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church

Peggy Graff
Organist, First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth

Clifton Howard
Assistant to the Bishop, Central Texas Conference

Darlene Alfred
Lay Leader, Central Texas Conference

Chris Mesa
Senior Pastor, Arborlawn United Methodist Church

Fred Bates
Trustee Chairperson, Central Texas Conference

Gary Sult
Council on Finance and Administration Chairperson, Central Texas Conference

Many Thanks Also To:
Vance Morton and the CTC Communications Team
Carey Weathers and the Arborlawn UMC Tech Team
The Staff and Volunteers of Arborlawn United Methodist Church