

# Cloud of Witnesses

A Service of Remembering

GATHERING MUSIC      "Comfort (The Lord is My Shepherd)"      Raney  
*Dakota Hill, First UMC, Dyersburg, TN*

GREETING      *Aaron Dennis, Gratitude UMC*

We have gathered to celebrate the lives of those  
who have served faithfully through the years  
and now share the triumph of Christ.

**We affirm with praise and thanksgiving the goodness of our Lord.**

Let us rejoice in God's presence with us, in death as in life,  
among those who mourn  
as with those who now see Christ face to face.

**In the midst of our grief we sing with joy,  
for God's love is over all that has been made.**

**Blessed be God's glorious name for ever.**

PRAYER

PSALM 121      *Catherine Phelps, First UMC, Covington TN*  
**R: The righteous live forever, their reward is with the Lord.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From whence does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,  
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;  
**the Lord is your shade  
on your right hand.**

The sun shall not smite you by day,  
**nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil,  
and will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in**

**from this time forth and for evermore. R**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Sara Corum, Trinity UMC*

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 12:1-3

SERMON

"Cloud of Witnesses"

*Bishop Joe Pennel*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Sergio Jimenez, Aldersgate/La Puerta UMC*

**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.**

NAMING OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS

*Angela Halkias, Goshen UMC*

**O God of both the living and the dead,  
we praise your holy name for all your servants  
who have faithfully lived and died.  
We thank you for the sacred ties that bind us  
to those unseen who accompany us as a cloud of witnesses.  
We pray that,  
encouraged by their example and**

**strengthened by their fellowship,  
we may be diligent followers  
and that nothing will be able to separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Hymn of Promise"

Sleeth

*Sammy Tillman, First United Methodist Church, Brownsville TN*

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;  
in our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

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BENEDICTION

*Bishop Joe Pennel*