

# Proceedings

## Morning Worship for April 24

AMY L. COLES (Western North Carolina): We gather in a spirit of Christ-centered hope at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand in a hope that does not disappoint us. We see with unsettling clarity the broken places of our world, our church, and our lives. In abiding hope we discern in this brokenness what others might struggle to see: The assurance of redeeming grace and the conviction of our tears are not wasted. In the life, the death, the resurrection of Jesus, even death kneels before eternal life. Even despair is silent before the relentless hope of God's resurrecting grace. We gather in a spirit of Christ-centered hope believing together that God faithfully weaves every thread of our struggle into a tapestry of redemption. Let us remain standing and join together in singing our faith, "Blessed Assurance."

*(music)*

PAUL LEE (Northern Illinois): *(speaking in Korean)*

*(music)*

*(applause)*

LEE: *(speaking in Korean)*

Please join me in response the words.

ALL: Source of all hope, whisper into our souls through these ancient words of Scripture. Inspire within us an endurance of prodigious character, a hope that transforms our vision, and a love that becomes as natural to us as breathing. Amen.

*(music)*

JULIE O'NEAL (Desert Southwest): We invite you to join in this responsive prayer of hope.

In the sweetness of our breakthroughs and the struggles of our burdens,

ALL: Create within us a hope that sees the intersection of the eternal and the everyday.

TERRY WALTON (North Georgia): In the rhythms of this General Conference and the dynamics of our interactions,

ALL: Create within us a hope that illuminates the face of Jesus in each countenance we see.

O'NEAL: In the heartbreaking suffering of our often violent world,

ALL: Create within us a hope that inspires our wholehearted commitment to peace and justice.

WALTON: In the challenges and transitions facing The United Methodist Church,

ALL: Create within us a hope that nurtures vibrant faith and deeper discipleship.

O'NEAL: In both the weeping and the wonderment of the daily pilgrimage,

ALL: Create within us a hope that welcomes the one who infuses each moment with sanctifying grace.

WALTON: Come, Spirit of Hope,

ALL: Bring expanded vision. Awaken durable joy. Lead us into new life.

WALTON: Would you now stand and join us in singing "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

*(music)*

BISHOP DAVID BARD: Beautiful people of God, we that part of God's beloved community called United Methodists gather together in this time-warped General Conference. Beautiful people of God, join your hearts with me in this benediction prayer:

Surround us with your grace, God of all hope, let our lives become songs of praise that there will be no inconsistencies between who we have been in worship and who we are everywhere else. In all that we do this day may our thoughts, words, and action bear witness to the way of Jesus in whose name we pray and in whose hope we live. Amen.

*(pause)*