

# General Synod 34: Making All Things New

Closing Worship “Re-creation/Revelation” | Tuesday, July 4,  
2023

Indianapolis, Indiana

Prelude

*Our Common Home, This Planet Earth*

Our common home, this planet earth requires our common care  
This gift of God is meant for all to use protect and share  
The earth supports a web of life in which we take our place  
It's food and water air and light sustain the human race

But now the earth is in distress from our pursuit of gain  
If we consume our planet home, what profit will remain  
If we ask more than earth can give and use more than we need  
Our common future is at risk endangered by our greed

What we do now affects the earth beyond the present day  
Concern for those who follow us can help us find our way  
God, help us bend our common will to right our common wrong  
That ages hence may sing your praise for earth restored and  
strong

*Words and Music by Barbara Hamm*

Call to Expressive Adoration (MOVEMENT)

Leader: Then, I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. God is making all things new, *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

All: God is making all things new, *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

Leader: The Spirit brings us to see God's glory shining from the mountain top. God is making all things new, *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

All: God is making all things new, *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

Leader: The glory of God is a light to the nations, the people of God bring their splendor and sight. God is making all things new, *Let this be our start (Movement C)*

All: God is making all things new, *Let this be our start (Movement C)*

Leader: Come to the river, Gather 'round the Tree, Dance in the Grass, Plant a few seeds. The God of abundance is setting us free!

All: God is making all things new,  
*Open up our hearts (Movement A)*  
*Help us do our part (Movement B)*  
*Let this be our start (Movement C)*

Opening Song

*Open The Eyes of My Heart Lord*

Open the eyes of my heart, God

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up

Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

High and lifted up

Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

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INVOCATION

*Pt. 1 (Sung in Chant-like form w/ movements)*

**Cantor:** God has come to dwell with us. *Open up our hearts*

*(Movement A)*

**All:** God has come to dwell with us. *Open up our hearts.*

**Cantor:** Holy City, New Jerusalem, *Help us do our part*

*(Movement B)*

**All:** Holy City, New Jerusalem, *Help us do our part.*

**Cantor:** Wipe each tear from every eye, Hold us as we walk  
towards truth, You are making all things new.

**All:** *Open up our hearts.*

*Help us do our part.*

*Open up our hearts.*

*Part. 2*

God of the new heaven and the new earth,

God of ages past, of the soil of ancestors who have become soil,

You need no invocation for you are already and always dwelling  
with us—

Emmanuel—in times of uncertainty

Emmanuel—in times of reconciliation

Emmanuel—in times of resolution

Your angels surround us, guiding us to unpolluted rivers

Ushering us to healthy trees full of *unstrange* fruit that multiply.

We come to meet you where you meet us—

Here, in this place, flesh that weeps, laughs, and dances on your  
grass.

We will worship you, in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

## **Welcome and Passing of the Peace**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

## **Song**

### *I Choose Love*

In the midst of pain, I choose love, In the midst of pain, I choose love

In the midst of pain, sorry falling down like rain  
I wait the sun again I choose Love, I choose Love

In the midst of war, I choose peace, In the midst of war, I choose peace

In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score, I will seek the good once more,

I choose peace, I choose Peace

When my world falls down, I will rise, When my world falls down I will rise

When my world falls down, explanations can't be found

I will climb to holy ground, I will rise, I will rise

In the midst of pain, I choose love, In the midst of pain, I choose love

In the midst of pain, sorry falling down like rain  
I wait the sun again I choose Love, I choose Love

Words and Music by Mark Miller

## **Prayer of Dedication**

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community and the world, We dedicate these gifts. For the ways it'll help

us be witnesses to God's love and compassion. We dedicate these gifts. Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, help us do a new thing with God and with community in this world. Amen.

## Invitation to Transformation

### *Moment of Silence*

Let us pray:

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in heavenly ponderings  
Instead of in the power that works in us on earth.  
We have spent much of our journey looking above  
when you have come to dwell with us right here.  
We have focused so much on a future paradise  
That we have forgotten to care for the soil beneath our feet.  
Forgive us for the times we stood looking for rescue  
when we were called to be the rescuer.  
Forgive for the times we were seduced by myths of scarcity  
Neglecting to share your abundance with our neighbors.  
When we have lost our way, remind us of yours.  
Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us again, so that we can bear witness  
To mighty works of God through Christ in the world.

## Words of Assurance

Cantor: God forgives. Now, we must live. *Open up our hearts*  
(Movement A)

All: God forgives. Now, we must live. *Open up our hearts.*

Cantor: Grace abounds, and love surrounds us. *Help us do our*  
*part (Movement B)*

All: Grace abounds, and love surrounds us. *Help us do our*  
*part.*

Cantor: She'll wipe each tear from every eye, and Hold us as we  
walk towards truth. God is making all things new.

All: *Open up our hearts.*

*Help us do our part.*

*Let this be our start.*

## Scripture Reading

## Sermonic Song

### *Moving Forward*

Oh, hey, what a moment You have brought me to?

Such a freedom I have found in You

You're the healer who makes all things new, yeah, yeah, yeah

I'm not going back, I'm moving ahead

Here to declare to You my past is over in You

All things are made new, surrendered my life to Christ

I'm moving, moving forward, oh

You have risen with all power in Your hands

You have given me a second chance  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, oh

I'm not going back, I'm moving ahead  
Here to declare to You my past is over in You  
All things are made new, surrendered my life to Christ  
I'm moving

Not going back, moving ahead  
Here to declare to You, my past is over in You  
All things are made new, surrendered my life to Christ  
I'm moving, moving forward  
Said I'm moving forward, oh yeah

You make all things new  
Yes, You make all things new and I will follow You forward,  
You make all things new

You make all things new and I will follow You forward

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## **Sermon**

The Reverend J.J. Flag  
Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice  
Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.



## Ritual of Transition

### Remarks

### Sending

Cantor: God be with us as we scatter. *Open up our hearts*  
(Movement A)

All: God be with us as we scatter. *Open up our hearts*  
(Movement A)

Cantor: Watch and keep us, guide us, hold us. *Help us do our*  
*part (Movement B)*

All: Watch and keep us, guide us, hold us. *Help us do our part*  
(Movement B)

Cantor: May your face shine on us now. May we never forget  
your truth. You'll keep making all things new.

All: *Open up our hearts.*

*Help us do our part.*

*Let this be our start.*

### Benediction

### Closing Song

#### *We Are a People of Hope*

We are a people of hope, We are a people of hope

Lighting a candle, we wait for the dawn We are a people of  
hope

We are a people of peace, We are a people of peace  
Lighting a candle, we work for the dawn We are a people of  
peace

We are a people of love, We are a people of love  
Lighting a candle, we welcome the dawn We are a people of  
love

Christ is the light of the Word, Christ is the light of the world  
Lighting a candle we witness the dawn, Christ is the light of the  
world

We are a people of hope we are a people of hope,  
Lighting a candle we wait for the dawn  
Lighting a candle we work for the dawn  
Lighting a candle we welcome the dawn  
Lighting a candle we witness the dawn  
We are a people of hope.

Words and tune by Barbara Hamm

## **Recessional**

*Led by a delegate of the Missouri Mid-South Conference*

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*GS34 Closing Worship was written by Rev. Mia McClain, Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C.*

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