



# General Synod 35: Into the Deep

Prayer Service “Planting Sweetgrass” | Saturday, July 12, 2025  
Kansas City, Missouri

Call to Worship

Prayers based on Luke 5:4

## **1. Trusting God beyond the shore**

Holy one, we hear your call in the distance. Calling us to come and follow you beyond the safety and stillness of the shore. Yet, we admit, we are fearful. Help us oh God, to heed the call of your voice, the leading of your Spirit, to step out into the deep, into the vastness of this work, the choppiness of the waves. Remembering that you are captain of the ship, a buoy for the burdened, and an anchor for the anxious. Help us to trust you beyond the shore.

*Song: "Prayer of Protection" (Patrick Henderson)*

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## **2. Risking disappointment again**

It has been a long night, a long series of nights. We have waited patiently and quietly only to come up with nothing! We don't want to keep doing this only to come up with nothing all over again. Yet, we perceive within us the need to do it again, to try again. We acknowledge, with trying again comes the risk of failing and thus disappointment. Oh, God, when we fail, catch us, and hold us in the heart of love.

*Song: "Another Chance" (V. Michael McKay)*

## **3. The deep-ness of discernment**

Spirit of Wisdom, we need your partnership and presence for the road ahead. Gift us with the insight to go beyond the surface and the clarity to wade through the chaos and confusion. Help us to continue to discern your call during a time when the noise is so loud and the fog so thick. May the path ahead lead us to a deeper sense of knowing you and knowing each other.

*Song: "Speak To My Heart" (Donnie McClurkin)*

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## **4. The deep-ness of vulnerability**

God of the depths, the one who goes beyond the surface of our being, who knows us beyond the veil of our masks, you know and love us. Yet, we confess, we have settled with knowing forms of each other, forms that do not always allow our human-ness to shine through. We have traded vulnerability for the exhausting work of facade building. Building walls between us and others. Help us to face the giant of comparison that lurks in the shadows, give us the courage to look in the mirror and see you in us and in the faces of our neighbors.

*Song: "Withholding Nothing" (William McDowell)*

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## **5. The deep-ness of belonging**

Spirit of Love, you flow in and through us, reminding us, no matter who we are or where we are on our journey, we are not only welcome here, but we belong here. A belonging without pretense, that envelopes us, welcoming the whole of who we are. Help us, to hold space for the expansiveness of our and others' being, allowing our friends and kin to experience the kind of belonging and liberation that is only found in honoring our undeniable sacred worth. May we remember, there are no papers or proclamations that dictate our belonging to the Kindom, only the truth that we are yours.

*Song: "Take, O Take Me As I Am" (John L. Bell)*

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## **6. The deep-ness of justice**

God of compassion, who joins us in our suffering. You are not unfamiliar to the workings and weight of evil. Your love does not make you unaware of the pain that those who wield power can and often do inflict upon those who do not. Rather than cower in fear, God embolden us to be a people who will seek after righteousness. Not because it is popular, but because it is what you are calling us to. Compassionate God, bring to life within us the sort of solidarity that breaks our hearts and pushes us into action. May we meet this moment, when institutions and systems are falling and failing all around us with a love that does not seek conversion but rather connection, so that we all will experience collective liberation.

*Song: "Let's Do The Work" (Kevon Carter)*

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## **7. Following the call to let down our nets (to be prayed in unison)**

Our God who is in Heaven, holy are your names. Your kindom come, your will be done, on the earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today the bread that we need and forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not allow us to be led into temptation and keep us away from evil. God, the Kindom is yours, the power is yours, and the glory is yours, forever. Amen.

*Song: "God Has Work For Us To Do" (Mark Miller)*

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