

DECLARATION OF DECONSECRATION²

CLOSING PRAYER³

CLOSING HYMN: *Shalom to You*

UMH 666

GOING FORTH

One: Through all of life's changes and challenges, Christ – our "island of stability" – remains with us.

All: As we let go of this cherished place,

One: Christ remains with us.

All: As we sing new songs and worship in new ways,

One: Christ remains with us.

All: As we serve in different ways and pursue different causes,

One: Christ remains with us.

All: As we find new friends in our new congregation,

One: Christ is eternally for us and with us.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: "God Be with You 'til We Meet Again"



RANDOLPH

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



A SERVICE OF LEAVE-TAKING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

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WELCOME

GATHERING MUSIC: "A Moment of Prayer" - Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP *From Ecclesiastes 3*

One: There is a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens

All: There is a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted

One: A time for crying and a time for laughing

All: A time for mourning and a time for dancing

One: A time for embracing and a time to refrain from embracing

All: A time for searching and a time for losing

One: A time for keeping and a time for throwing away

All: Yet in every time and season, the Spirit is with us and our lives are held within God's care.

OPENING HYMN: *How Firm a Foundation* UMH 529

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we find ourselves in a season of change where life no longer looks the way it used to, and the future is uncertain. When we begin to feel overwhelmed by grief, or fear, or anger, remind us of what is unchanging and eternal – your inexhaustible love and sustaining grace, made known to us through Jesus Christ. May the security of that love and grace, and constant presence of your Spirit, enable us to weather life's changes, regardless of their outcomes. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalms 23* UMH 137

SCRIPTURE READING: John 12:20-26

MESSAGE: "Everything Changes"

HYMN: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* UMH 117

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Reminiscences may be shared by members of the congregation and by former pastors in attendance.

HOLY COMMUNION

Service of Word and Table III

UMH 15

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING¹

One: Blessed be the name of God, whose Word has long been proclaimed within this hallowed place.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: As generations have prayed their prayers and sung your praises here, your Spirit has blessed countless worshippers.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: We have celebrated the Lord's Supper here and been nurtured by it through our journey in faith.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: We have rejoiced here as believers have confessed faith in Christ.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: Here we have baptized our children and mourned our dead.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: As new families have been created through marriage, we, our parents, and our children have vowed at this altar to love, honor, and cherish always.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: From within these walls many have gone out to serve you in the world.

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: As we go now from this house into a further journey of faith,

All: We give you thanks, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.