

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

An open community united in love and justice



The Ordination & Installation of
ALICIA CORINNE HANNER REESE
Saturday, November 19, 2022

**You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

Bolded text indicates congregational singing or responses.

GATHERING

*PROCESSIONAL

Zach Zwahlen

I, the Lord of Sea & Sky (Here I Am, Lord)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? R/

I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

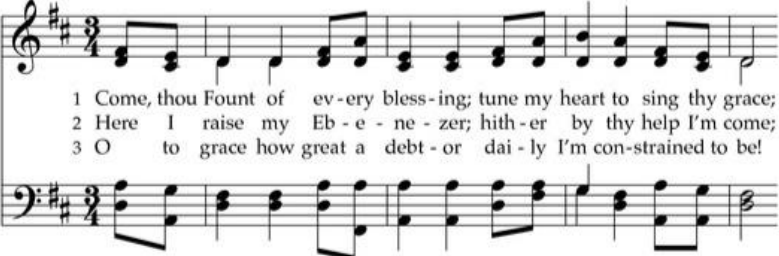
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? R/

WELCOME

Rev. John Edgerton

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



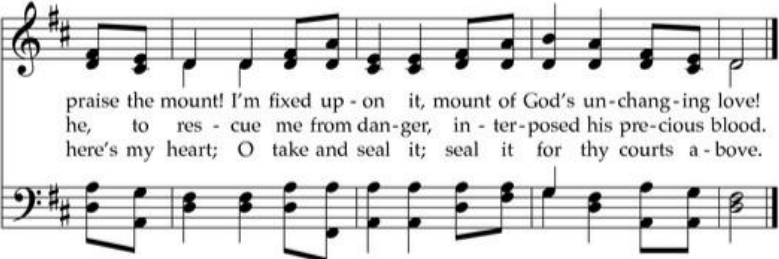
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12). Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gwendolyn

Keyes

We gather this afternoon because God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and said,

“I am sending you.”

Because Isaiah heard the voice of God saying,

“Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”

Because the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying,

“Before I formed you, I knew you. Before you were born, I consecrated you.”

Because Jesus said,

“Follow me,”

and the fishermen left their nets and followed him.

We gather because there is one among us whom God has called to join in ministry with all the prophets, priests, and teachers before her.

God is surely with her and with us this day!

*PASSING THE PEACE

During this time, you will be invited to share a sign of peace with those around you.

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Congregation

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (Blue hymnal no. 280)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;

‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

**When we've been here ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Joyce Perry

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Our God is a loving God, but also one of expectation.
We are forgiven, but we must also forgive.
We must live as though that forgiveness were important to us.
Let us live in the promise that we are God's people,
beloved children, forgiven in Christ, called and empowered to serve.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Lucas Kult-Banout

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith...
In life and in death we belong to God.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
**In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally
in God's image...**
God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love...God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith...
binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

--A Brief Statement of Faith, excerpts

THE WORD

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Sanctuary Choir

Be Still and Know That I Am God

POETIC READING

Rev. Britt Cox

For Those Who Have Far to Travel by Jan Richardson

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Marteki Reed

HEBREW BIBLE READING - Exodus 3:7-12

GOSPEL READING - Luke 1:26-35

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Joanne Lindstrom

*SERMON RESPONSE

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (Blue hymnal no. 404)

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on help me stand;

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to light;

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;

When my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall;

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

ORDINATION/INSTALLATION TO THE OFFICE OF TEACHING ELDER

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION & INSTALLATION Rev. Dr. David Thornton

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same God who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Rev. Britt Cox

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Rev. RJ Kang

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE PASTOR Rev. Dr. David Thornton

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Rev. John Edgerton

Do we, the members of the church, accept Alicia as our associate pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for her, encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church?

We do.

Do we promise to pay her fairly, and provide for her welfare as she works among us, to stand by her in trouble, and share her joys?

We do.

Will we listen to the word she preaches, welcome her pastoral care, and honor her authority as she seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

We will.

*PRAYER OF ORDINATION,
INSTALLATION & BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Beth Brown

*LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Dr. Joanne Lindstrom

*DECLARATION OF ORDINATION &
INSTALLATION

Rev. Dr. David Thornton

CHARGE TO THE NEWLY ORDAINED &
INSTALLED PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Beth Brown

Blessing the Way by Jan Richardson

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS OF MINISTRY

Rev. RJ Kang

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Rev. John Edgerton

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

Congregation

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry (Black hymnal no. 351)

I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;

I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word. I was there to cheer you on;

You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young;
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.**

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION & GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Deborah Kapp

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Alicia Reese

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

*SHARING THE MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

For Everyone Born

Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Joanne Lindstrom

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

Will You Come & Follow Me (The Summons)

Congregation

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Alicia Reese

POSTLUDE

Zach Zwahlen

Festal Postlude on 'Lasst uns erfreuen' by William Faulkes

Please join us in the lounge for a reception with light refreshments.

THANK YOU!

Today is a joyous day nearly a decade in the making. But in reality, it was a path that God had set me on long before that. The list of individuals would be too long to list, but let me name a few of the “villages” without whom we wouldn’t be here today... 1st Pres Arlington Heights, where I was baptized, confirmed, and raised in faith for the first 18 years of my life; McCormick Theological Seminary, where I worked, studied, and claimed my call and no amount of words can express what my time there meant for me; Lincoln Park Pres., where I was nurtured and encouraged as a student pastor; First United, where I have been blessed to spend the first 6 years of my ministry; and the Presbytery of Chicago, especially CPM and CARE.

My husband, Dave, has been my rock. I don’t think he ever thought he would be a pastor-spouse, but he is great at it! And I am so thankful for him.

My whole family has been supportive and loving, for which I am so grateful. They are proud of me and that means the world to me, but particularly my parents and siblings, Mom, Dad, Patty, Jenn, Katharine, & Ollie, I LOVE YOU! And thank you.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Brown, Rev. Dr. Beth: Pastor of Lincoln Park Pres.

Cox, Rev. Britt: Assoc. Pastor of First United Methodist of Evanston

Edgerton, Rev. John: Lead Pastor of First United Oak Park

Kang, Rev. RJ: Pastor of Pres. Church of Palatine, CPM moderator

Kapp, Rev. Deborah: retired MTS faculty and former interim of FUCOP.

Keyes, Gwendolyn: FUCOP Council Elder

Kult-Banout, Lucas: FUCOP Council Elder

Lindstrom, Rev. Dr. Joanne: recently retired MTS faculty, officiated Alicia & Dave's wedding.

Perry, Dr. Joyce: retired educator, serves as moderator of FARE within the POC.

Reed, Marteki: FUCOP Council Moderator

Thornton, Rev. Dr. David: POC Moderator, interim at Lakeview Pres., serves on CARE.

A BLESSING FOR AFTER BY JAN RICHARDSON

This blessing is for the moment

After clarity has come,

After inspiration,

After you have agreed to what seems impossible.

This blessing is what follows

After illumination departs

And you realize there is no map

For the path you have chosen,

No one to serve as guide,

Nothing to do but gather up your gumption

And set out.

This blessing will go with you.

It carries no answers,

No charts,

No plans.

It carries no source of light within itself.

But in its pocket

Is tucked a mirror that,

From time to time

It will hold up to you

To remind you of the radiance

that came when you gave your awful

and wondrous

yes.

MY STATEMENT OF FAITH – ALICIA REESE

I believe in the one Holy Triune God. I understand the first person of the trinity as creator, artist, author, source of all creation. God is love, desiring nothing more than to be in reciprocated relationship with us. God created out of love, this is evident in the beauty and diversity of creation. Evil exists, but I do not believe God created it. Suffering is an ineradicable part of life and God suffers with us. God works among, within, and through us, in our search for meaning, giving us hope.

I believe Jesus is the son of God, fully human, fully divine, co-eternal, the second person of the trinity. Jesus was a Rabbi, healer, activist, prophet, rebel, who sought justice and preached love, for all people. He was condemned and crucified for his radical actions and beliefs. Through Jesus' willing death on the cross and resurrection, we find redemption, receiving God's unmerited gift of grace and love. Through his life and ministry, we are given hope and inspiration for how to be disciples in the world.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the mysterious third person of the Trinity. Like wind or breath, the Spirit is unseen, but felt and her presence is a comfort. The Spirit holds believers in community, inspires us to walk in the way of Jesus, and is the gift of God.

I believe church means never having to walk the journey of faith alone. It's our home for worship, communal confession, and where all people should be met with Jesus-like hospitality. It should be a safe place to explore our questions and doubts. The Spirit calls us together to be a community of hope and love, with a common mission and ministry, and inspires us to live it out.

I believe sacraments are visible signs of God's invisible grace. Through them, God claims us, promises eternal life, grants forgiveness, and offers reconciliation. They sustain our faith and transform us. By participating in them, we respond to and reciprocate God's love and grace. The waters of baptism signify the connection between the water of all our sacred stories.

Together, with God, we welcome a sibling of any age into the community of believers and enter into a covenantal relationship to nurture and support them in their faith journey. With the Eucharist we celebrate and remember Jesus giving his life for the sins of humankind. God's presence is a mystery in the elements, but we taste, and we see. Jesus preached and lived out radical hospitality and so must we; None should be excluded from the table.

I believe the Bible is God's living word; Through the Holy Spirit's inspiration we interpret scripture, finding truth, comfort and meaning. The Bible is a library of sacred stories that provide us with the history of our faith and the stories of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ: the way, the truth, and the life.

I believe the kingdom of God means the reigning of love, peace, justice, equity, hope, joy, righteousness. The consequences of this reign make the kingdom inhospitable to all else. It will be the end of hatred, war, injustice, racism, suffering, and hunger. Through our acts as disciples, we have the ability to move us closer to the kingdom with every choice we make with the grace of God.