

A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES



Service of Installation for Pastor Lauri Allen as Pastor and Teacher and Celebration of 161st Anniversary of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 24, 2021

12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Meal

2:00 p.m. – Service of Installation and Celebration

PRELUDE

Jen Jencks Conley, Music Director, Mayfield Congregational UCC

WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Dawn Carlson, Moderator, Mayfield Congregational UCC

When the doors are tightly shut, can the peace of God be shared? There the church may gather, but how its witness is impaired! With the doors flung open wide, all its energy and strength flow to those around, outside, held no longer at arms' length. Welcome to this holy place! Come with others or alone. Savor here refreshing grace, here where peace from God is known. Peace to all who enter here! Peace be with each passerby! Peace dispelling anxious fear, peace from God, who hears each sigh! May this building be a place where the peace of God is found! Welcome, then, to sacred space! Welcome, then, to hallowed ground!

HYMN #73 “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.
Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.
Open your hearts everyone. Open your hearts everyone.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.
Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

HISTORY OF MAYFIELD CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Wilma Miranda, Historian, Mayfield Congregational UCC

INTRODUCTIONS

Rev. Kathy Lawes, Associate Conference Minister

GREETING

*Rev. Charlene Hinckley, Association Moderator
Pastor of St. Paul's UCC, Hinckley*

The Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth. We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, those who have gone before as well as those who walk beside us. Today I encourage each of you to set aside all that weighs you down, let loose of resentments and bitterness. Live in God's love, and work in Christian unity to make the world a more just, peaceful, and hopeful place.

PEOPLE

We look to Jesus for the perfect example of Christian life. Jesus, the one who continued his radical ministry of turning the world upside down even when it took him to the cross. Jesus, the one who shares the Creator's love for each of us. Jesus, the one who gave us the Advocate to guide and teach us. Jesus, the one who defeated death and promises resurrection to us.

RECOGNITION OF 161st ANNIVERSARY OF MAYFIELD CONGREGATIONAL UCC

HYMN #448 "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

SCRIPTURE

Nichole King

member at Second Congregational (UCC)/First Presbyterian PC USA Church, Rockford IL

Hebrews 11:1-2 and 12:1-2a

New English Translation

11 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see. For by it the people of old received God's commendation.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

REFLECTIONS

- Fred Ashe member of Ebenezer-Salem UCC, Pearl City IL
- Niel Shoffner Pastor of 1st Congregational of Rock Falls
- Mary Gerbode on behalf of the Gerbode family members of Salem UCC, Lena IL
- Heather Paugh friend, Naperville IL
- Rev. Robert Meissner retired UCC clergy;
member at First Congregational UCC, DeKalb IL

PRAYER

Nichole King

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH¹ (unison)

Janice Blickhan, member of First Congregational UCC, DeKalb IL

I believe, Lord, that everything good in the world comes from you. I believe in your great love for all people, I believe that, because you preached love, freedom, and justice, you were humiliated, tortured, and killed. I believe that you continue to suffer in our people. I believe that you call me to defend your cause, but I also believe that you accompany me in the task of transforming this world into a different one where there is no suffering or weeping; a world where there is a gigantic table set with free food where everyone is welcome. I believe that you accompany us in waiting for the dawning of a new day. I believe that you will give us strength so that death does not find us without having done enough, and that you will rise in those who have died seeking a different world.

SPECIAL MUSIC “We are Called”

Jan Wylde, vocalist

PRESENTATION

Dawn Carlson, Moderator, Mayfield Congregational UCC

Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ of Sycamore, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Pastor Lauri Allen as its pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Prairie Association install her in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dave Bateman, Chair of Committee on Ministry

Pastor of St John’s Harmony UCC, Hampshire

The Prairie Association has reviewed the request of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Pastor Lauri Allen, and we are pleased to install her as your pastor and teacher.

Lauri, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ.

Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

EXHORTATION

Member of the Committee on Ministry

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, our sisters and brothers, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the

Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

Member of the Committee on Ministry

We urge you, our sister, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

Member of the Committee on Ministry

See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

COVENANT

Rev. Dave Bateman (addressing the congregation)

Dear friends, Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Lauri Allen to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry.

The Prairie Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Rev. Dave Bateman (addressing the pastor)

Pastor Lauri, seeing that you are called to licensed ministry by the grace of God and that Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Prairie Association?

Pastor Lauri Allen

I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Kathy Lawes (addressing the congregation)

Members of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

Members and adherents of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ:

(members of the church who are able, please stand for the remainder of the covenant)

We, the members of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ, receive Pastor Lauri Allen as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support.

We gather with her, and with the United Church of Christ, as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rev. Kathy Lawes (addressing the association members and ecumenical guests)

Members of the Prairie Association (and our ecumenical guests), will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

Association members and ecumenical guests:

(members of the Prairie Association (and ecumenical guests) who are able, please stand for the remainder of the covenant)

We, the members of the Prairie Association of the United Church of Christ (and ecumenical guests), gather with you, the people and pastor and teacher of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

Rev. Dave Bateman

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant Pastor Lauri to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon her, the people of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ, and on all the churches of the Prairie Association that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage.

Rev. Charlene Hinckley

Grant us a spirit of power and of peace; make our ministry a means of awakening, strengthening, and comforting ourselves and all we serve. May we be pure in heart as we share your love, fervent in spirit as we address injustice, and valiant in bringing your kingdom to all your children. Surround us with your love and the support of the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. We ask these things in Christ's name.

ALL Amen.

DECLARATION

Rev. Kathy Lawes

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher of Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ.

ALL Thanks be to God.

OFFERING to benefit Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

Bill Griesenauer, The Federated Church of Sycamore

PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

Lord, give us courage to overcome divisions so that we might celebrate the gifts of grace in other people. Give us readiness to share the various traditions in a spirit of fraternity. Give us a hunger for your Word and your bread, so that we might soon find a seat together at the communal meal of unity and love. Much is already achieved; much still lies before us on the way to reconciliation for unity and peace, a peace which shall be accorded to all people. Lord, let us harvest in thanksgiving the good fruits of our ecumenical work and let us grow in faith, hope, and love, so that we come nearer you and one another. The world rightly expects of Christians service to the poor and commitment to peace in justice. Lord, lend your aid to our efforts, so that our witness to Christ and our service to the world might be convincing and effective. Amen.

HYMN #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Rhodora Collins on French Horn, Mayfield Congregational UCC

CLOSING WORDS / BENEDICTION

Pastor Lauri Allen

POSTLUDE

¹Tirabassi, Maren and Kathy Wonson Eddy. *Gifts in Open Hands*. The Pilgrim Press, 2011.

Call to Worship: written by Norman J. Goreham, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Affirmation of Faith: written by a peasant woman, El Salvador

Prayer of Dedication: adapted from Agenda I, edited by Church Office of the Evangelical Church of Kurhesses-Waldeck, Kassel, 1996, Germany

Prairie Association Committee on Ministry

Rev. Dave Bateman, chairperson

Ms. Janice Blickhan

Mr. Jim Eisfeller

Rev. Ted Engelsdorfer

Pastor Becky Erbe

Rev. Muriel Jahn

Ms. Suzanne Juday

Mr. Dave McClure

Rev. Ron McNeill

Pastor of St. John's Harmony UCC, Hampshire

Member of First Congregational UCC, DeKalb

Member of the United Church of Byron

Pastor of Union Congregational UCC, Somonauk

Associate Pastor of SecondFirst (UCC/PCUSA), Rockford

Pastor of St. John's UCC, Belvidere

Member of The Federated Church of Sycamore

Member of Open Table UCC, Ottawa

Pastor of Granville UCC, Granville