



Ancient Hospital Ruins,
Pergamum, Turkey

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Rev. Daniel Busch

Mr. James Huckemeyer

Cheyenne Olt

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Association Minister

Committee On Ministry Representative

Accompanist/Vocalist

September 13, 2020

Ordination of Katherine M. Jackson

The * indicates all who are able may stand

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES: As we light the altar and Christ candles, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For the goodness and mercy you have shown us:

All: We give you thanks and praise, O God.

Leader: For courage to face these uncertain days:

All: We give you thanks and praise, O God.

Leader: For the hope you inspire in us:

All: We give you thanks and praise, O God. Now and forever, let us worship God!

How Can I Keep from Singing? 424

1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
 It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry (1826-1899), alt.

ENDLESS SONG
8.7.8.7.Ref.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Loving God, we invite your spirit into our midst. Renew our lives, renew our joy and our hope. Refresh our souls, so that we may continue your works of love in the world. Empower us to meet fear with courageous love. May your presence abide with us, allowing us to bring more light into our world. Encourage and strengthen us to continue to follow your call for our lives and for our communities. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

***HALLELUJAH!**

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht
 Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht
 Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -
 lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht

Chords: C, Am7, D7, D, Em

PRAYER HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

PILGRIMAGE & PERSEVERANCE

Be Thou My Vision

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1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word,
 3 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught I be ev - er else with thee me, save that thou art—
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Lord;
 Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Chords: Eb, Eb/G, Ab, Bb, Ab, Eb/G, Cm, Bb, Eb, Bb, F7/C, Bb/D, Eb, Eb/G, Ab, Eb/G, Cm, Bb, Ab, Ab/C, Ab/Eb, Eb, Gm7/D, Cm7, Cm, Gm7, Ab, Bb, Eb, Bb/D, Cm, Eb/Bb, Eb/G, Fm/Ab, Ab, Fm7, Eb

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Merciful and gracious God, while we share in the joy of ordination today, we cannot ignore the state of our community, our country and our world. The chaos, violence and fear we see every day trickles into every part of our lives. We don't know what or who to believe, and we seem more separated and divided than ever. With the uncertainty that looms over us, your presence is more obscured than ever. Help us to be centered on the truths you have shared with us and shown us over and over. Humanity is loved and cherished by you. No matter how distant and isolated we feel from others and from you, you have not left and you will not leave us. You hear our cries and you know our longings. Refresh our minds, renew our strength and reinforce our resolve to love our neighbors. Let us be confident in what you have called us to, and let us continue to be bold in our determination to grow your kingdom on Earth. Bind our community together with love, stir in us compassion for the whole of humanity, and remind us of the hope we have in You. We lift up to you our joys and sorrows in this silence.

O God, may we always be confident that you hear us when we pray. We ask that your spirit would continue to help us to pray. We seek connection to each other and connection to You. All of these things we ask in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for

you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

All: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: We are called to respond to God in ways that magnify the goodness and blessings we have received. Our gifts bind our community together. Our offerings and tithes are another way we honor our creator and sustainer. Let us give as God calls us.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God, you have given us so much in this life—your blessings abound. Please accept these offerings as a demonstration of our gratitude for all we have received, and for your presence in our lives. Use them to help our church bless others in our community and our world. Amen.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION

GREETING

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers on earth.

The Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

PEOPLE: To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory

in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION

LOCAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE: St. Paul United Church of Christ, after carefully considering the call to ordained ministry of Katherine M. Jackson respectfully requests that the Northwest Ohio Association ordain Katherine M. Jackson to the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ, consistent with scripture and with the traditions of the church universal, and according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: The Northwest Ohio Association has reviewed the request of St. Paul United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Katherine M. Jackson concerning her fitness for ministry in Christ's church. We are pleased, on behalf of the United Church of Christ, to authorize the ordination of Katherine M. Jackson into the Christian ministry.

Katherine M. Jackson, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your consent to receive ordination into Christian ministry.

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession.

It looks to the word of God in the scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant reformers.

It affirms the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the gospel in church and society. The

United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.

Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ through an association, in cooperation with the person and a local church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

EXHORTATION

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me!" How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace! The messenger announces victory and says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The Spirit of God is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those who are bound!

EXAMINATION

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Katherine M. Jackson, before God and this congregation, we ask you: Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and are you ready with the help of God to enter this ministry and to serve faithfully in it?

ORDINAND: I am.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Do you, with the church throughout the world, hear the word of God in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and do you accept the word of God as the rule of Christian faith and practice?

ORDINAND: I do.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and in reading the scriptures, as well as in the public duties of your office?

ORDINAND: I do, relying on God's grace.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church, speaking the truth in love?

ORDINAND: I will, relying on God's grace.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you be faithful in preaching and teaching the gospel, in administering the sacraments and rites of the church, and in exercising pastoral care and leadership?

ORDINAND: I will, relying on God's grace.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you honor all confidences shared with you?

ORDINAND: I will, relying on God's grace.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you seek to regard all people with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all?

ORDINAND: I will, relying on God's grace.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Do you accept the faith and order of the United Church of Christ; and will you, as an ordained minister in this communion, ecumenically reach out toward all who are in Christ and show Christian love to people of other faiths and people of no faith?

ORDINAND: I do and I will, relying on God's grace.

ACCLAMATION (*Those official delegates of the association (clergy and others so designated) who are able may stand.*)

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: People of God, you have heard the promises Katherine M. Jackson, has made. What is your will?

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS: By the grace of God, she is worthy! Let us ordain her. Come, Holy Spirit.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Will you support Katherine M. Jackson in the ministry of Christ?

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS: We will.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's

call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer on them gifts for ordained ministry.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Let us pray.

Eternal God, in wisdom you govern all things, and from the beginning you have chosen faithful people to serve you in ministry, calling some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip all your people for the work of the ministry and for building up the body of Christ." Now bless and sanctify by your Holy Spirit your servant Katherine M. Jackson, whom we, in your name and in obedience to your will, by prayer and with the laying on of hands, ordain to the ministry of the church, committing to her the authority to preach your word, administer the sacraments, and exercise the responsibilities of pastor and teacher.

Bestow on Katherine M. Jackson the power of your Holy Spirit, confirming what we do. Let the same mind be in her that was also in Christ Jesus. Enable her to nourish your people in the faith of the gospel. Fill her speech with truth and her/his life with purity.

Increase the faith of Katherine M. Jackson in you, strengthen her in the day of trouble, prosper her words and works that your name may be glorified and your truth exalted; through Jesus Christ our Sovereign and Savior.

PEOPLE: Amen. Thanks be to God!

DECLARATION

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you to be ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: Receive at our hands this Bible of which you are appointed as an interpreter. Be diligent in the study of its message that you may speak with the authority of truth, and be a faithful minister of the word and sacraments.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE: You are granted ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ; and in behalf of its people, we offer you the hand of Christian love.

614 Let There Be Peace on Earth

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

C B7 Em B7 Em B7 D# G7 D G7

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

WORDS: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995), alt.
 MUSIC: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995); harm. Charles H. Webb (1933-)
 Words and Music © 1955, Ren. 1983 Jan-Lee Music

G7 Am Am6 Em C7 F Em/G G7 C

With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Am7 D7 G Am7 D7 G G7

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

C B7 Em B7 Em B D# G7 D G7

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:

G7 C C+ F D7 Fm6

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

C E7 F C F Dm7 G7 Dm7/G C

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

*BENEDICTION: We have met Christ in this place. May we continue to take Christ out into the world, sharing the Light and Love that lives within our community, and within each of us. May we go out in peace. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Here I am Lord (chorus)

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of five systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo markings are 'slowing' and 'a tempo'. The lyrics are: 'light Word life to them? to them. Whom shall I send? Whom shall I send? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.' The guitar chords are: Am7, C, Am, G/B, C6, D, D7/F#, G, Gsus, G, D7/A, C/E, D7, G, Cmaj7/G, Am, G/B, C6, D, D/F#, D, G, Gsus, G, C/G, G, C/E, D7, G, Am7, C/D, D, G, C/G, G.

*RECESSIONAL