

Order of Worship January 16, 2022
Service of Ordination and Installation

Gathering Music

Steven Johnson

YOU ARE MY STRENGTH

GTG #519

*You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all.*

*Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all.*

Refrain:

Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name

Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name

*Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all.*

*When I fall down You pick me up. When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all.*

MY HOPE IS BUILT

GTG #353

*1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain:

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]
His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]*

BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE!

GTG # 839

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.

Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,

watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Call to Worship

John Witmer

The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ:

"Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

**We come to this place, to this time,
at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

In the name of Christ,
we accept the invitation to discipleship.

In the name of Christ,
as his disciples, we worship and praise God.

In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,
we proclaim the God of Compassion.

In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up
whole lives, whole peoples,
we proclaim the God of Hope.

In the midst of indifference and apathy,
we proclaim the God of Love.

Come, let us worship together
and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

Hymn of Praise:

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

GTG #729

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,) in my heart (in my heart,)
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,) in my heart (in my heart,)
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,) in my heart (in my heart,)
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,) in my heart (in my heart,)
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

Preparing for the Word

Call to confession

John Witmer

We are baptized as individuals, yet called to live and serve together.
We know, and need to confess, how we have sought to live for ourselves,
not reaching out to others, and seeing them as parts of Christ's Body.
Join me as we pray, saying,

Prayer of confession

**Rock of our salvation, we know the faults try to hide from you and others.
We have not cared for all people in the same way.
We do think some are more gifted, or better, or prettier.
We are more willing to rejoice with someone, than to suffer with another.
We are not sure the prisoners should be set free, or the poor given hope.
Redeemer of all people, forgive us. Anoint us with your Spirit's power
so our eyes might be opened and our ears freed to listen to what Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior,
teaches us about your love and grace for our lives.**

Words of forgiveness

John Witmer

God's Spirit is upon us:

the Spirit of forgiveness, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of oneness.

Today, and in all the days to come, God's Spirit is with us.

Thanks be to the One who is our joy and our strength! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, amen.

Hearing the Word

Message for all God's Children:

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Prayer for illumination:

John Witmer

Dear Lord, speak to us through your Word today,

that we may hear you calling us out of the wilderness places in our lives

and into new places you have promised to show us.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 62:1-5*

John Witmer

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you

shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be

a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of

your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more

be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land

Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Anthem: Find Us Faithful

New Testament Lesson: *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Sermon: *"I Just Can't"*

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Hymn:

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

*I have decided to follow Jesus. I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back no turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me
The world behind me, the cross before me, No turning back, No turning back.*

*I have decided to follow Jesus. I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back no turning back.*

Responding to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

John Witmer

We respond to the Word of God by offering:
Offering our prayers, our efforts, our daily walk with Christ,
Offering our skills, our gifts, our wealth,
Offering our time, our discipline, our faith,
Offering our whole selves.
Let us freely bring our offerings to the Lord today.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Prayers of the people

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Eternal God, you are the maker of us all, and we are your creation, people formed in your image, as individuals, as community; formed and fed and furnished with understanding of who you are and of who and whose we are.
We worship you today in recognition of your calling, of your communicating, of your caring to invite us to share in your creative and healing work.
We are here because we have heard you speak in us and through others.

Help us, dear Lord, to ever respond to you and your invitation to your grace...

God of all our moments, of our days and our nights, you speak and you act in the world around us, not only to call all people to you, but also to direct and guide us in the way of healing and wholeness.

Awaken us Lord, to hear what you would say to us.

Help us to open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to your presence.

Lord, we pray that your church may rise up with renewed commitment in answer to your call, that your people may be instruments of your grace and love....

We pray for those who consider themselves inadequate and dismiss or avoid your calling in their lives.

Give them a new vision, a vision in which you are their strength and their hope...

We pray for those who, in answering your call, must leave the known for the unknown, the oasis for the desert, the comfortable for the uncertain.

Grant them courage and steadfast faith...

We pray too, today, O Lord, for those in want and need –
for those of us and of the larger community who suffer in body or in soul.

We remember before you...*[various intercessions]*

Loving Father, bless us all with an abundant faith, a fruitful ministry, a joyful life.

Bless us and all those who gather together to continue the work of Jesus, who came to heal, save, and deliver us all, and who taught us to pray as one family, saying...

The Lord's Prayer

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Statement on Ordination

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.

This is our common calling,
to be disciples of Jesus Christ
and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church,
some are called to particular service
as deacons, as ruling elders,
and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church,
assuring that his ministry continues among us.
Through ordination, God provides
for acts of care and compassion in the world,
for the ordering and governance of the church,
and for the preaching of the word
and celebration of the sacraments.

Clerk of Session:

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church,
the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church
now ordains Sarah Alvater to ministry as *deacon*,

The session *also* installs to active service

those who have been previously ordained: *deacons* and *ruling elders*

And so we ask those God calls for ordination and installation

To affirm their faith along with the whole congregation:

Affirmation of Faith

Clerk of session: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Clerk of session: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Constitutional Questions

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Sarah, Bill, Carol, Charlotte, in baptism,
you were claimed by the love of God,
clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ,
and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to share Christ's mission in the world.

Now you are called by God through the voice of the church
for new service and ministry in Jesus' name.

In accordance with the Constitution
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),

show your commitment to this calling
by responding to these questions:

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior,
acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church,
and through him believe in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
to be, by the Holy Spirit,
the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ
in the Church universal,
and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt
the essential tenets of the Reformed faith
as expressed in the confessions of our church
as authentic and reliable expositions
of what Scripture leads us to believe and do,
and will you be instructed and led by those confessions
as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ,
under the authority of Scripture,
and be continually guided by our Confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity,
and will you abide by its discipline?
Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry,
working with them,
subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life
seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ,
love your neighbors,

and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity,
and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

For Deacons

Will you be a faithful deacon,
teaching charity, urging concern,
and directing the people's help
to the friendless and those in need,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

For Ruling Elder

Will you be a faithful ruling elder,
watching over the people,
providing for their worship, nurture, and service?
Will you share in government and discipline,
serving in councils of the church,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

Clerk of session:

Do we, the members of the church,
accept Sarah, Bill, Carol and Charlotte. as *ruling elders and deacons*,
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for *them*, to encourage *them*,
to respect *their* decisions, and to follow as *they* guide us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Ordination and Installation (*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*)
(with virtual laying on of hands)

Gracious and eternal God,
with joy we give you thanks and praise.

Throughout the ages and in every place
you have chosen servants from among your people
to point the way to salvation by your grace.

We are grateful for ancestors in the faith
who followed without fear,
placing their trust in you alone—
for judges and monarchs
who ruled in righteousness and peace;
for prophets and apostles
who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth;
for leaders and teachers in every age
who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.

Anointed by your Holy Spirit,
he proclaimed your reign on earth,
revealing your saving love
in all he said and did.

Gracious God,
pour out your Spirit upon your servant Sarah
whom you called by baptism as your own.
Grant *her* the same mind
that was in Christ Jesus.

Gracious God,
we *also* give you thanks for your servant(s) Bill, Carol and Charlotte
as *they* continue(s) in the ministry
to which you have called *them*.
Help *them* to rely on the gifts of your Spirit
and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Give *all these* a spirit of truthfulness
that *they* may show the compassion of Christ
in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Clerk of session:

Sarah, Bill, Carol and Charlotte, you are *deacons and ruling elders*,
ordained to ministries of *service and governance*
in the church of Jesus Christ
and for this congregation.
Welcome and welcome back to the ministry.

Going forth in Joy!

Closing Hymn:

I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY

GTG #69

*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 born 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? (Refrain)*

*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 'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Go now, and live as one body in Christ.
Be at peace, and care for one another;
Suffer with one another and rejoice with one another.
Give your attention to the Word of God
and proclaim the good news of freedom to all.

And may God delight our hearts and sharpen our vision;
May Christ Jesus keep us, thought, word and deed in his grace;
And may the Holy Spirit be the fountain that sustains us all
and binds us all together as one. Amen

Postlude

Steven Johnson