

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP CELEBRATING THE ORDINATION OF Matthew Wolf

Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 4 o'clock p.m. via Zoom
The Eastern Association of the Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ
and St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Monee, Illinois

- Prelude William Spence
"Grand Chorus"
Ellen Herrmann, organ
- Welcome Reverend Kim Wood
- Call to Worship David Holston
We gather to worship God who is the Creator and generator of surprise throughout our past and in every moment when we are amazed by grace and so prompted to joy and to laughter. The psalmist said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God.'"
As we gather in places far and near, yet still together, as we gather for this time of ordination and celebration, this is indeed a place and a time for gladness!
- Gathering Prayer Reverend Marsha Collins
- Scripture Reading Brandon Wolf
Isaiah 6: 1-8 – A Vision of God in the Temple
In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:
*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."*
The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"
Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph[b] touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"
- John 13: 1-17 – Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet Michele Wolf
Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper, Jesus,

knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet,[b] but is entirely clean. And you[c] are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants[d] are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

Message

Reverend Eric Quinney-Burnard

A Moment of Reflection (Music)

"Lord, Here Am I"
Ellen Herrmann, organ and vocals

Fannie Crosby/John Ness Beck

SERVICE OF ORDINATION

Greeting

Reverend Wood

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 creation. The Eastern Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

Presentation

Eric Myers

(addressing the association representative)

St. Paul's United Church of Christs, after carefully considering the call to ordained ministry of Matt Wolf, respectfully requests that the Eastern Association ordain Matt 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.

(addressing the congregation)

Reverend Susan Lock

The Eastern Association has reviewed the request of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Matt concerning his fitness for ministry in Christ's church. We are pleased on behalf of the United Church of Christ, to authorize the ordination of Matt into the Christian ministry.

(Addressing the ordinand)

Reverend Doctor Carol Lange

Matt, 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 recognized two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

Reverend Barbara Lohrbach

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, recognized and authorized 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 is given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

Exhortation

Pastor Dennis Hughes

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

Rev. Lock and Rev. Dr. Lange

Rev. Lock

Matt, 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

Rev. Lange

Do you, with the church throughout the world, hear the word of God in the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testaments, and do you accept the word of God as the rule of Christian faith and practice?

Ordinand

I do

Rev. Lock

Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and in reading the scriptures, as well in the duties of your call?

Ordinand

I do, relying on God's grace.

Rev. Lange

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.

Rev. Lock

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

Ordinand

I will, relying on God's grace.

Rev. Lange

Will you keep silent all confidences shared with you?

Ordinand

I will, relying on God's grace.

Rev. Lock

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.

Rev. Lange

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

Rev. Wood

Those official delegates of the association (clergy and other so designated) who are able, please respond.

Rev. Wood

People of God, you have heard the promises Matt has made. What is your will?

Association Members

By the grace of God, he is worthy! Let us ordain him. Come, Holy Spirit.

Rev. Wood

Will you support Matt in the ministry of Christ?

Association members

We will.

(The people may show their approval and support by applause.)

Laying on of Hands

Rev. Wood

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognized God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful woman and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer on them gifts for ordained ministry. In times when we are all able to gather in one physical space, all ordained clergy, as well as members of the ordinand's family would be invited to come forward to lay hands upon the ordinand while the congregation surrounds them. Today, in order to observe safe practices during the pandemic, we ask that Matt's family, Michele, Eliza, and Brandon Wolf, surround him to lay hands upon him, and that all gathered and on Zoom raise your hand, palm facing forward, in a symbolic act of laying on hands.

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 Matt, 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 him the authority to preach your word, administer the sacraments, and exercise the responsibilities of pastor and teacher. Bestow on Matt the power of your Holy Spirit, confirming what we do. Let the same mind be in him that was also in Christ Jesus. Enable him to nourish your people in the faith of the gospel. Fill his speech with truth and his life with purity. Increase the faith of Matt in you, strengthen him in the day of trouble, prosper his 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

Rev. Wood

(The newly ordained minister may rise)

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Eastern Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you to be ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ.

You are granted ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ; and on behalf of its people, we offer you a sign of peace in Christian love.

(All gathered may greet the newly ordained minister with a distanced or virtual sign of peace.)

Call to Sharing Gifts

Rev. Kim Wood

(Today's offering is designated to Clergy and Members-in-Discernment development. You are invited to share your gifts by going to the Illinois Conference website (<http://ilucc.org>), where you

may click on the DONATE button to go to a secure site. Locate the "Eastern Association Meeting" line to enter an amount. Be sure to include "ordination" in the category space to the right before hitting CONTINUE. You may also send a gift directly to the Illinois Conference or St. Paul's UCC, noting that it is for Matt's ordination in the memo line)

Benediction

Reverend Matt Wolf

Postlude

"Festival Toccata"
Ellen Herrmann, organ

Percy Fletcher

Participants in Leading Today's Worship

Brandon Wolf	Son of Ordinand
Eliza Wolf	Daughter of Ordinand
Michele Wolf	Spouse of Ordinand
Eric Myers	Moderator, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Monee
Ellen Herrmann	Music Director, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Monee
David Holston	Member-in-Discernment, Eastern Association, Member, St. Paul's United Church of Christ Monee, Illinois Conference President
Rev. Marsha Collins	Chaplain and Director of CPE Program, Riverside Hospital in Kankakee and Pastor, United Church of Chebanse, UCC
Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard	Interim Pastor, Evangelical United Church of Christ, Highland IL
Rev. Susan Lock	Pastor, St. John United Church of Christ, Beecher
Rev. Dr. Carol Lange	Pastor, Zion United Church of Christ, Gilman
Rev. Barbara Lohrbach	Pastor, St. John United Church of Christ, Kankakee
Pastor Dennis Hughes	Pastor, Illini Congregational United Church of Christ, Warrensburg
Rev. Kim Wood	Acting Associate Conference Minister, Illinois Conference

Eastern Association Committee on Church and Ministry

Rev. Susan Lock (Chairperson)	Pastor Dennis Hughes (Vice-Chairperson)
Ms. Dianne Schultz (Secretary)	Mr. Paul Herrmann
Rev. Dr. Carol Lange	Ms. Audrey Lehnert
Rev. Barbara Lohrbach	Rev. Patricia Morton
Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard	Rev. Doug Zimmerman

Eastern Association Council

Rev. Dr. Carol Lange (Moderator)	Rev. Barbara Lohrbach (Vice-Moderator)
Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard (Past Moderator)	Ms. Patricia Heitman
Rev. Dr. Jennifer Little	Mr. Larry McCure (Conference Stewardship Rep)
Rev. Patricia Morton	Mr. Lester Rabe
Ms. Terri Smith	Rev. Kyle Timmons

Ms. Kay Quinney-Burnard, Representative to Illinois Conference Council