

THE ORDINATION OF

JOYCE L. WEALAND

SUNDAY

20 SEPTEMBER 2020

at half past 1 o'clock in the afternoon

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
444 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

# WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today, welcome! *For more than 167 years our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.*

## THE LITURGY OF ORDINATION INTO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

*Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.  
‘We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.’  
(Psalm 48:8)*

PRELUDE

Come, Holy Ghost, BuxWV 199

Dieterich Buxtehude

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*\* Then all stand, as you are able.*

L: We gather this afternoon because God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and said, “I am sending you.”

**P: Because Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”**

L: Because the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying, “Before I formed you, I knew you.

Before you were born, I consecrated you.”

**P: Because Jesus said, “Follow me,” and the fishermen left their nets and followed him.**

L: 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.

**All: God is surely with her and with us this day!**

—Pastor Laura Cadmus, *used with permission*

\* OPENING HYMN

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

*Pescador de Hombres*



1. You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing neith - er the wise nor the  
2. You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Neith - er treas - ure nor weap - ons for  
3. You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing love for the rest of the  
4. You now have fished oth - er wat - ers; you, the long - ing of souls that are



wealth - y, but on - ly ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
con - quest, just these my fish - nets and will for work - ing.  
wear - y— A love that's will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
yearn - ing; as lov - ing Friend, you have come to call me.

*Refrain*



O Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;



kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.



On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;



now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

\* GREETING

The Rev. Patricia Battle

L: 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 Central Southeast 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.

**P: 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.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 6.*

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

I'll Walk With God  
The Rev. Daniel Doty, *soloist*

Nicolas Brodsky

I'll walk with God, from this day on,  
God's helping hand, I'll lean upon;  
This is my prayer, my humble plea,  
The Spirit ever with me.

I'll walk with God, I'll take God's hand,  
I'll talk with God, who'll understand;  
I'll pray to God, each day to God  
God will hear the words that I say.

There is no death, tho' eyes grow dim,  
There is no fear when I'm near to Christ.  
I'll lean on him forever  
And he'll forsake me never.

God's hand will guide our ministry,  
And we'll never walk alone while we walk with God!  
—Paul Francis Webster, alt.

Christ will not fail me as long as my faith is strong.  
Whatever road I may walk along;

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:7–21

The Rev. Beth Gedert

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 3.*

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of God's power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. God's intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to God's eternal purpose accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Christ and through faith in Christ we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

For this reason I kneel before the Creator, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of God's glorious riches God may strengthen you with power through God's Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to the one who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to God's power that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 4.*

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## PRESENTATION

Rev. Ahrens

*addressing the association representative*

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, after carefully considering the call to ordained ministry of Joyce L. Wealand, respectfully requests that the Central Southeast Ohio Association ordain Joyce 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*

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

The Central Southeast Ohio Association has reviewed the request of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio. We have prayerfully examined Joyce 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 Joyce L. Wealand into Christian ministry.

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

*The ordinand may leave her place in the congregation and may stand, if able, at the Chancel before the representatives of the Association, who review the United Church of Christ’s Constitution and Bylaws regarding ordination.*

*addressing the ordinand*

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

Rev. Battle

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: How are people to call upon one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.

#### EXAMINATION

*Rev. Battle:* Joyce, 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?

*Joyce:* I am.

*Rev. Battle:* 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?

*Joyce:* I do.

*Rev. Livingston:* 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?

*Joyce:* I do, relying on God's grace.

*Rev. Livingston:* Will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church, speaking the truth in love?

*Joyce:* I will, relying on God's grace.

*Rev. Ahrens:* 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?

*Joyce:* I will, relying on God's grace.

*Rev. Ahrens:* Will you keep silent all confidences shared with you?

*Joyce:* I will, relying on God's grace.

*Rev. Wealand:* Will you seek to regard all people with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all?

*Joyce:* I will, relying on God's grace.

*Rev. Wealand:* 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?

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

ACCLAMATION

Rev. Battle

*addressing the members of the gathered congregation*

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

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

L: Will you support Joyce in the ministry of Christ?

**P: We will.**

*The ordinand may kneel, if able.*

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Battle

L: 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.

*Silence is observed.*

L: 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 Joyce, 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 Joyce, 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 life with purity.

Increase the faith of Joyce, 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.

**P: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

DECLARATION

Rev. Battle

*The newly ordained minister may rise.*

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

*The United Church of Christ Book of Worship and other gifts may be presented to the newly ordained minister.*

*A certificate of ordination may be presented with these or other words.*

*Rev. Battle:* You are granted ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ; and on behalf of its people, and we offer you our Christian love, welcome and support.

\* THE PEACE

The Rev. Joyce L. Wealand

L: The peace of Christ be always with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

*The leaders may greet the newly ordained minister.*



1. We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done O'er crumb - ling walls their  
 2. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of peace for  
 3. My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light beams on  
 4. O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands Ne'er fal - ter when the

cross - es scarce - ly lift. Wait - ing 'til love can raise the brok - en stone, And hearts cre -  
 lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the coun try where my heart is; here are my  
 clo - ver - leaf and pine. But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver, and skies are  
 dream is in our hearts, When to our ears there come di - vine commands And all the

a - tive bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing, Ar - chi - tect Di -  
 hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine; but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are  
 ev - ery - where as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the  
 pride of sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you, O grant en - dur - ing

vine, Re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.  
 beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 worth Un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.



\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Wealand

Our celebration has ended, and our service now begins.  
As we go out into the world, look for the resurrected Christ in all you meet.  
Be the resurrected Christ for all who meet you.  
And may the blessing of Almighty God: Source, Word, and Spirit, One,  
be with us now and always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Major, BWV 541

J.S. Bach

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PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *Senior Minister, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio*  
The Rev. Patricia Battle, *Central Southeast Ohio Association Minister, Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ*  
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, *Chair, Department of Preparation for Authorized Ministry, and Member of the Association Council, Central Southeast Ohio Association, Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ*  
The Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer, *Mentor*  
The Rev. Dr. C. William Wealand, *Dean, Southern Region for the United Church of Christ Pension Boards Annuitant Visitor Program*  
The Rev. Beth Gedert, *Pastor, Zion United Church of Christ, Delaware, Ohio*  
Kevin Jones, *Minister of Music, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio*  
The Rev. Daniel J. Doty, OSL, *Designated Interim Minister, Westerville Community United Church of Christ, Westerville, Ohio*  
Joyce L. Wealand, *Ordinand*  
Peter Murray, *livestream engineer*

## Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

## First Church is a Faith Community

- † Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

## Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

God is still speaking,

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