



SERVICE OF ORDINATION  
NOVEMBER 15, 2020  
2:00 PM

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

## OPEN & AFFIRMING WELCOME STATEMENT

First Congregational Church of Akron unconditionally affirms all people as we live out our call to follow Jesus Christ and his teaching of inclusive love.

We welcome people of every race, age, nationality, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, family circumstance, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, or spiritual background.

We invite all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to participate fully in our church life, ministry, and leadership.

We strive to be a safe place, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds can heal, differences are cherished, and inclusivity is intentional.

We commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice, discrimination, violence, and hatred, in order to foster a world of peace and wholeness.

God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace and celebrate you.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Nanette Pitt & Rev. Nayiri Karjian

SONG

*All Are Welcome*

Composed: Marty Haugen

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love Christ will end divisions:  
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter,  
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 138:1-3

CH (CPT) Rev. David Madewell

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.  
On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul.

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE

Genesis 16:13

CH (CPT) Rev. David Madewell

So, she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi", for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?"

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

CH (CPT) Rev. David Madewell

SERMON

*New Status*

Pastor Christyne Han Chan

SONG

*Draw the Circle Wide*

Composed: Gordon Light

***Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.***

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**God, the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns  
nothing lost, but held forever in God's gracious arms. *Refrain***

**Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small.  
Let our loving know no borders faithful to God's call. *Refrain***

**Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ within us, open ev'ry door. *Refrain***

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Rev. Stephen Boyd, DeAnn Clemons

EXHORTATION

Elder Maxine Williams

AFFIRMATION OF COVENANT

Rev. Nayiri Karjian & Antigone Lowery

PROMISES OF THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Rev. Nayiri Karjian

**One:** You have heard Antigone's promises. Do you, who also are called to service and love, affirm Antigone's call and accept her to the life and work of ordained ministry?

**All:** **Antigone Lowery, we affirm you as one called to ordained ministry in Christ's Church and we pledge to support and pray for you in the ministry to which Christ has called you.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS & ORDINATION PRAYER

Rev. Steven Savides

*The laying on of hands is the traditional act of prayer in the Church that is a visible sign of the Holy Spirit as the gathered church prays that the Spirit would impart on a person the gifts they will need to serve.*

DECLARATION

Rev. Nayiri Karjian

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

DeAnn Clemons & Rev. Nanette Pitt

COMMUNION

Rev. Antigone Lowery

Invitation and Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration and the Lord's Prayer (*please use the language most familiar to you*)

**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.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*We celebrate an open communion table; everyone is welcome to participate.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Nanette Pitt

SONG

*Here I Am, Lord*

Composed: Daniel L. Shutte

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest 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 borne 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 till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain***

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Rev. Antigóné Lowery

POSTLUDE

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister, The Living Water Association (Ohio NorthEast) of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ  
CH (CPT) Rev. David Madewell, United States Army Reserve  
Pastor Christyne Han Chan, New Mercy Community Church, NY  
Rev. Stephen Boyd, Minister for Chaplains and Ministers in Specialized Settings, United Church of Christ  
Elder Maxine Williams, United Church of Spring Valley, NY  
DeAnn Clemons, Moderator, First Church of Akron  
Rev. Steven Savides, Member, First Church of Akron  
Dave Aberth, Celebrate Service Music Leader, First Church of Akron  
Kellie Ramirez, Brian Randall, and Mike Vincent, Instrumentalists and Vocalists, First Church of Akron  
Antigóné Lowery, Associate Minister, First Church of Akron  
Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister, First Church of Akron

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