

A Celebration of Ministry and Installation
The Rev. Jennifer Bloesch
Saturday, May 16, 2020

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Rev. Jill Graham and The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CLERGY GUESTS

The Rev. Quentin Chin and The Rev. Michael Tuck

MUSIC

Come Thou Fount

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!

Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help, I've come;

And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

Bishop Doug Fisher

Bishop: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

***People:* Glory to God for ever and ever.**

The Bishop continues: There is one Body and one Spirit;

***People:* There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

***People:* One God, Creator of all.**

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us pray,

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Bishop continues

People of Grace Church, you have reflected on your ministry and discerned your choice for a new Program Director of Gideon's Garden.

Wardens: We have chosen and called the Rev. Jen Bloesch to be the Gideon's Garden Program Director, and she has accepted.

Bishop: I commend your choice and affirm this call.

Bishop: Are you, the people of Grace Church, ready to continue in your ministry, with the Rev. Jen Bloesch as your pastor to this ministry?

People: We are.

THE WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

Genesis 8:13-22; 9:1-3

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

¹³ In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. ¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. ¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. ²² As long as the earth endures,

seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

9 God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ²The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air, on everything that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. ³Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People: Thanks be to God

1 Peter 5:1-11

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

5 Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you ²to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight,^[a] not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it^[b]—not for sordid gain but eagerly. ³Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. ⁵In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders.^[c] And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert.^[d] Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters^[e] in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: Praise to you Lord Christ.

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards^[a] off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger,

you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Rev. Reebee Girash

THE SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

GREETING

The Rev. Tara Tetzlaff: The Berkshire Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

***People:* Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

COVENANT

Kathy Clausen: Dear friends, Grace Church; an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called the Rev. Jen Bloesch to minister in this place as Gideon's Garden's Program Director, and that Grace Church now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshire Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ have declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

This installation is not only unique in the way we are conducting it, but it is also an expression of the unique relationship between the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. This is a historic moment in which the Rev. Jen Bloesch, a minister of the United Church of Christ, received her first call to an Episcopal Church, and in so doing is living out Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one."

(addressing Jen)

Jen, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and now within this unique relationship between our two faith traditions, you have been called to lead the ministry of Gideon's Garden, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us?

Jen: I am willing, and I promise to serve within this ministry faithfully, teaching and ministering among the children and youth, tending the Lord's Creation, and promoting a ministry which feeds the hungry in our community.

Bishop Doug Fisher (addressing the congregation):

Members of the Grace Church; an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires, of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, will you affirm your covenant with your ministry leader?

Members of Grace Church: We, the members of Grace Church, receive the Rev. Jen Bloesch as pastoral leader of the ministry of Gideon's Garden, promising to labor with her in this essential ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshire Association of the Southern New England Conference UCC as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rev. Tara Tetzlaff (addressing the association members):

Members of the Berkshire Association, will you raise your right hand and affirm your covenant with Grace Church, an Episcopal Community of the Southern Berkshires and its pastoral leader to this special ministry?

Association Members: We, the members of the Berkshire Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people of Grace Church, and its priest, and with Rev. Jen Bloesch as ministry leader of Gideon's Garden, as a sign of our covenant, and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

The Rev. Jill Graham
Associate Conference Minister, SNEUCC

CHARGE TO THE REV. JEN BLOESCH AND TO GRACE CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

GIFTS

Kathy Clausen

Kathy: Jen, we offer our prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings to God.

Jen: Amen. In the Spirit of God, who searches the heart and knows our deepest needs, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who yearn for Christ's healing.

Kathy: Jen, with companionship and service we bring the reconciling presence of Christ to those who seek healing. Join us in this ministry by sharing God's love in the world.

Jen: Amen. May we all live without fear: our Creator has made us holy, loves us eternally, and reconciles us to each other.

PRAYER FOR NEW MINISTRY

Bishop Doug Fisher

MUSIC

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

*To you, O God, all creatures sing
and all creation everything
sings your praises, alleluia!*

*Your burning sun with golden beam,
Your silver moon with softer gleam
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*To you, O God, day after day,
Your planet earth in every way,
Sings your praises, alleluia!*

*As savory fruit and fragrant flower,
Show forth your glory and your power,
Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Swift flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Fire, so intense and fiercely bright,
You give to us both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*All you with mercy in your heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O praise him! Alleluia!
All you that pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God, and cast on him your care,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

BENEDICTION

The Rev. Jen Bloesch

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS IN SERVICE

READER

PENNIE CURRY, member of Grace Church, an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires

RESPONDER

THE REV. LIZ GOODMAN, Pastor of Church on the Hill, UCC in Lenox, MA and Monterey UCC in Monterey, MA

KATHY CLAUSEN, Senior Warden of Grace Church, an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires

PREACHER

THE REV. REEBEE GIRASH, Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational, UCC in Lexington, MA

PRESIDERS

THE REV. DR. JANET ZIMMERMAN, Rector of Grace Church, an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires

THE REV. JILL GRAHAM, Associate Conference Minister of the Berkshire Association, SNEUCC, and Pastor of First Congregational Church of Sheffield, UCC

BISHOP DOUG FISHER, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION MODERATOR

THE REV. TARA TETZLAFF, Moderator of the Berkshire Association, SNEUCC and Pastor of First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, UCC

CLERGY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE REV. QUENTIN CHIN, Registrar of the Berkshire Association of the Southern New England Conference, UCC

THE REV. MICHAEL TUCK, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox, MA