

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
of the United Church of Christ**



**Opening Worship and
Installation of Rev. Kevin J. McLemore
Friday, June 3, 2022
2022 Annual Meeting**

SERVICE OF GATHERING

PRELUDE Prelude in G, Op. 37, no. 2 by Mendelssohn

Kat Bowman, Director of Music and Organist
St. Peters UCC, Pikeland

OPENING HYMN "I Sing The Almighty Power of God" #12 New Century Hymnal
OneLicense #708988

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise.
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye;
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known,
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Zachary Jackson

Leader: The world belongs to God,

All: The earth and all its people.

Leader: How good it is, how wonderful,

All: To live together in unity.

Leader: Love and faith come together,

All: Justice and peace hold hands.

Leader: If Christ's disciples keep silent,

All: These stones would shout aloud.

Leader: Open our lips, O God,

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Karl Jones

*PASSING THE PEACE

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Mrs. Dian Taylor-Pringle

Psalm 103: 1-5 (NRSV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Hebrews 4: 9-11 (NRSV)

So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his.
Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.

SERMON

Rev. Cean James. Pastor, Salt and Light Community Church UCC
PSEC Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION "Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers" Roger Powell
#397 New Century Hymnal

Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.
With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise; we who are the church rejoice

Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.
Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one,
Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.

Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.

THE PRAYERS (responsively)

Rev. Doug Hanson
St. Peters UCC, Pikeland

God's spirit is with us in this sacred place. God's spirit is with us in the community we make together. God's spirit lives and rejoices when we hold God's beloved world, and all the peoples of the world, on our hearts in prayer. Let us, therefore, rejoice God's spirit by our sincere prayers.

All: We pray for all Creation, in the spirit of universal concern which we have witnessed in the life of Jesus.

We pray for your creation, O God, so beautiful and fragile, so plentiful and diverse ... yet, so full of suffering, of abuse and misuse.

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayers for your whole creation.

We pray for those who are ill in body, mind or spirit; for the oppressed and those who suffer; for those who are hungry and for those who have lost hope; for those whose lives are claimed by cancer, COVID and the countless diseases that strike the body, mind and soul.

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayers for these your children, known and unknown to us.

Gracious and holy God, we pray for the institutions and organizations, the churches and ministry settings represented here. Grant us strength when we feel small and weak in the face of the obstacles before us. Grant us courage when we lose our heart and our nerve. Grant us voices when we are prone to silence.

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayers, open our voices, and give us courage.

We pray for peace in the holy land, and for the people of Ukraine; for peace from Schuylkill to Philadelphia; for peace in our cities and on our streets; for peace in our homes and in our hearts.

All: God, in your mercy, be with us as we join together to work for your peace in our world.

O God who calls us to be your disciples, we thank you for the ministry that all believers share. Help us to exercise our own ministries of care and witness not only in our places of worship, but also in the communities in which we live, the places where we work, study and play. May our words and deeds reflect your love and compassion for the splendidly varied people of this world.

All: God, in your mercy, give us caring and compassionate hearts.

Gracious God, on this day we pray especially for Kevin and for the Pennsylvania South East Conference. Bless our ministries of word, sacrament, and pastoral care, as well as our outreach to region of our state. Ministering together in your name, may we give witness to your ways of justice, peace, hope and healing.

All: To you, O God we offer up our hopes and fears and praise. Amen and amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Offering in aid of enabling a hybrid Fall Conference meeting

OFFERTORY ANTHEM/MUSIC – “In Christ Alone” by Travis Cottrell

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ms. Tammie Wisniewski

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

GREETING

(URSINUS COM Chair – Rev. Nick Pence) The Ursinus Association, where Kevin’s ministerial standing resides, and the Chairs of the Committees on Ministry of the Pennsylvania Southeast 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.

ALL: 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.

(NORTH PENN COM Rep – Rev. Elaine Ely) Having been called and elected by the will of God and the consent of the people, we now ask Kevin J. McLemore, to respond to this call and election by means of these promises.

(SCHUYLKILL COM Chair- Ms. Cora Shenk) Kevin, will you give to this ministry every good gift God gave you for love, leadership, service and praise? Will you minister with an open spirit, a wise mind, an eye for partnership, and a heart for the common good? Will you walk the way of Jesus with us, delighting in the pleasure of God’s grace, and not be ashamed of the Gospel?

Kevin: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I am willing, and I promise to do these things, but I cannot do them without the help of God and the prayers of the people. May God be with me and God’s abundant grace sustain me. And may the people say, “Amen!”

ALL: Amen, and amen! God be with you, and our prayers uphold you! Amen and amen!

(PHILADELPHIA COM Chair – Rev. Bob Robinson) Kevin, will you support and affirm and welcome all members of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference as gifted partners in the ministry of Christ? Will you show patience in conflicted times, courage in perilous times, and love at all times? Will you be fervent and persevering in commending this Conference in prayer to the indwelling Spirit of God?

Kevin: Friends in Christ, I am willing, and I promise to do these things, but I cannot do them without the help of God and the prayers of the people. May God be with me and God’s abundant grace sustain me. And may the people say, “Amen!”

ALL: Amen, and amen! God be with you, and our prayers uphold you! Amen and amen.

Kevin: Sisters and brothers of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, will you promise to honor and support each other in the labors of the Gospel with good will and great hope? Will you use the gifts God gave you in generous service, working for the changing of lives and the repair of the world? Will you be courageous, patient, and loving in times of delight and in times of pain, challenge and change for the sake of the common good, the peace of the church, and the glory of God?

ALL: We are willing, and we promise to do these things, but we cannot do them without the help of God and your prayers for us. May God be with us and God’s abundant grace sustain us. And may you say, “Amen!”

Kevin: Amen and amen! God be with you, and my prayers uphold you. Amen and amen!

The Prayer of Installation

(COVENANT COM Chair-Rev. Thomas Adil) Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep them that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Pour out your Holy Spirit on Kevin and all the churches of the Covenant, North Penn, Schuylkill, Ursinus and Philadelphia Associations that our mutual Conference ministry may be a bold blessing of faithfulness, diligence and courage to all people.

Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church and converting sinners to you. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil. And at the last, receive us by your grace in that eternal home, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Declaration of Installation

(URSINUS COM Chair – Rev. Nick Pence) Sisters and brothers in Christ, we believe that the Holy Spirit has moved among us, choosing Kevin McLemore to be our Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call. The people have affirmed the Spirit’s election, and today we have made promises to labor together in love for the sake of the Gospel.

ALL: With joy and in hope, with faith and praise, we now declare that Kevin is duly installed in this ministry, by the mercy and grace of God! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATE

Rev. William P. Worley
PSEC Conference Minister

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Rev. Kevin McLemore

CLOSING HYMN

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

Julian Rush

#391 New Century Hymnal

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways;
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey, now and ever,
now and ever, now and evermore.*

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

Refrain

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.

Refrain

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

Refrain

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

Refrain

POSTLUDE “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” arranged by Joel Raney