PRELIMINARY

Synod of the Covenant Assembly Closing Worship October 22, 2022

PRELUDE Holy Spirit Living Breath of God

Kristen Woodard

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 133)

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; give praise O servants of the Lord!

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to God's name, for God is gracious!

For we know that the Lord is great; our Lord is above all gods.

Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN Praise to the Lord with Joyful Joyful Kristen Woodard

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Testament Ezekiel 37:1-14

New Testament 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

SERMON Deb Uchtman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison). from the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Deb Uchtman (and Others)

Sentences of Scripture

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus.

Gal. 3:27-28

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Eph. 4:1-6

Call to Discipleship

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We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

Adrienne Adams, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace, we are saved and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you pray for and serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do you, members of the Synod of the Covenant, confirm the call of God to Adrienne as Moderator in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage her in this ministry? **We will.**

Installation Prayer

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit, you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading Adrienne to this time and place. Establish her in your truth, and guide her by your Holy Spirit, that in your service she may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be a faithful disciple(s) of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. **Amen.**

Blessing and Charge

Adrienne, you are installed to service as Moderator for the Synod of the Covenant. May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Thanks be to God.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Adrienne Adams and Fran Lane-Lawrence

Invitation to the Table

Jesus calls us to the well, inviting us to drink of the Living Water, and the life eternal.

Jesus calls us out of the shadows, out of the graves, to be entirely known, and entirely filled with God's presence.

Jesus calls us all: all who were made in God's own image, all who breathe the breath of God's spirit: the Spirit of Life.

Jesus calls us to the table, to the meal that nourishes our bodies and binds our dry bones into one Body, living in Christ.

Jesus calls us, here and now. Come to this table, you who are beloved in Christ. Come, not because you must, but because you may.

Holy God, source of all being, you are greater by far than our human thoughts can comprehend. With all that you have created, you abide; weeping with us in grief and pain, rejoicing with us in life and love. You are everywhere in this very moment; holding the entirety of living experience and weaving us together in the great and intricate tapestry of Creation.

Creator God, mother and father of us all, in your holy love you took on our limitations. Born of a body, bound within a body, you know the whole of this human experience. Learning to communicate with words; teaching us to communicate with presence. Learning the fears that wring us dry; teaching us of the love that nurtures us back to life.

Everlasting God, you are everywhere and right here. As close as the air we breathe, the air which binds us one to another and all to your beautiful creation. You are as close as the sunlight on our skin, as close as the rain that drips from our hair; the wind and the water that push us and lead us and call us again and again into relationship with one another and with you. Holy Spirit, divine Advocate, guide and encourage us. Stir within our hearts, that we may speak anew the familiar words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion

Source of life, and breath, and being, breathe into the dry dust of our existence. Nourished in body by bread and cup, may we strive for the nourishment of all bodies: may we work to end hunger in this creation that provides amply for all. Nourished in spirit by the Body which is within our own, may we strive for the incorporation of all: may we work to break the barriers that divide us from one another and from you. In the love that sustains us, and the Spirit that animates us, may we give all thanks and praise to you, O God of all. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN Love Divine All Loves Excelling Kristen Woodard

BENEDICTION Adrienne Adams