

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Ordination of Deacons & Installation of Leaders for a New Church Year

Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

-Leo Buscaglia

Greeting

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

*Prayerful Call to Worship

Dr. Foust

ONE: God, we celebrate with thanksgiving Your acts of creation and Your presence throughout the world in all life.

ALL: Be with us in every time and place as we seek to be faithful in witness to Your power and love.

ONE: We praise You for this everlasting love that compels us to share the good news of Christ.

ALL: Work Your power in us to do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

All Creatures of Our God and King

Chalice Hymnal No. 22, verse 1

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing; Alleluia, Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jason Benton
Matthew 8:1-4

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

ONE: This is the written word of God, for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Song of Centering

Shine on Us

J. Kevin Gray

Michael W. Smith and Deborah Smith

During this song, quiet your mind and spend time simply existing in the presence of God.

Lord, let your light, light of Your face, shine on us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life
to find our way in the darkest night;
Let your light shine on us.

Lord, let your love, love with no end come over us.
That we may be saved, that we, may have life
to find our way in the darkest night;
Let Your light shine on us.

The Church at Prayer

Rev. Nate Dove

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.

Prayer Concerns

Andrew Adair, Carol Drye, Betty Fuller, Polly Hull, John Owens,
Tish Philemon, Gene & Carol Poole, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas

Prayers for our world, especially those living in the wake of hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires,
COVID-19, and global conflicts

Offertory Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Song

Reach Out & Touch

J. Kevin Gray

Nickolas Ashford &
Valerie Simpson

Refrain:

Reach out and touch somebody's hand;
make this world a better place if you can.

Just try, take a little time out of your busy day
to give encouragement to someone who's lost the way.
Just try, or would I be talking to a stone, if I asked you
to share a problem that's not your own.
We can change things if we start giving.

Refrain

Just try, if you see an old friend on the street
and she's down, remember her shoes could fit your feet
Just try, try a little kindness you'll see
it's something that comes very naturally.
We can change things if we start giving.

Refrain

Message

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Vitamin T: A World in Need of a Hug

The Ordination of Deacons



Litany of Ordination

Congregation

PASTOR: Living God, as You ordain us to be Your servant people, we set apart these deacons in the life and ministries of St. John's Baptist Church.

PEOPLE: Please bless them with clarity of vision, breadth of wisdom, and pathways of servant leadership as they guide us in the ways of Jesus.

DEACONS: As part of our commitment to God, we dedicate ourselves to lead by example pursuing the spiritual health and ministry vitality of St. John's.

PEOPLE: As the people of St. John's, we promise to pray for you, co-labor with you, and support your servant leadership as you invest yourselves in the mission of God.

ALL: We offer this prayer to God, through Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church.
Amen.

Deacons Being Ordained

Becky Benton, Whitney Crowder, Janes Starnes,
Kevin Turner, Chip Wilson

Prayer of Ordination

Sally Young

*Hymn of Discipleship

Lord, You Give the Great Commission
ABBOT'S LEIGH

Lord, You bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as You intend.
And, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

J. Noel Lance