

Save us, O God, from hurrying away,
because we do not wish to help,
because we do not know how to help,
because we lack the courage to dare.

Inspire us to use our lives serving others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptural Text for the Day

Mary Paxton

Reflection upon the Word

The Rev. Sheila Guillaume

***Hymn**

"Here Are Our Hearts"

Service of Consecration

Presentation of Candidates

Peggy Mullan

Candidates, please come forward as your name is called.

Affirming the Diakonal Ministry Covenant

Michael Readinger

Leader: *Sisters and brothers, it is an honor to be entrusted with the ministry of healing and human service in Christ's church and the world. Having prayerfully considered the responsibilities and privileges of Diakonal ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God, in the name of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit?*

Candidates: *I am.*

Leader: *Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, making the love of God visible in your work and service?*

Candidates: *I do, relying on God's grace.*

Leader: *Members of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and members of the household of faith, we have heard the promises of our sisters and brothers whom God has called, by name, to the Diakonal ministry. Together, let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.*

Congregation:

We rejoice to be partners with you in human service offered in Christ's name. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and to share the yoke of ministry with you so that together, we may be faithful servants of the Living God.

Prayer of Consecration

The Rev. Danielle Bartz

(One) O Merciful God, we praise you for teaching us that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ways that your grace has been revealed in this world through the ministry of health and human service institutions and in the lives of your Diakonal Ministers, especially those women and men whom we consecrate this day. Grant each of them a full measure of your wisdom and courage, so they may confidently face the challenges of servant-hood with loving energy, creativity and growing faithfulness. Empowered by your

love, may these colleagues serve others with compassion, grace and joy. Bless these servant leaders with your abiding presence, O God. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Symbols of Diakonal Ministry & Declaration to Candidates Michael Readinger
(One) In the name of God and the Servant Christ, and on behalf of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, I rejoice to announce that you are recognized and authorized as Diakonal Ministers in Health and Human Service Institutions related to the United Church of Christ. Congratulations and God bless each of you and those whom you are privileged to serve.

Sharing a Sign of Peace

As the newly consecrated Diakonal Ministers receive their gifts and certificates, and return to their seats, the congregation is invited to greet them and one another with a sign of peace. May the peace of Christ be with you!

We Gather at the Table

The Invitation

The Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Blessing and Sharing the Elements

Communion will be served at several stations by intinction.

Musical Selection "The Stranger"

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

In holy communion, O God, we have gratefully discerned that we are one body in Christ, in love and service to the whole world. In common kinship, we sense that if one member suffers, all suffer together. If one member is honored, all rejoice together. Help us to express our oneness with the larger human family wherever life takes us. Amen.

Closing Hymn

"I Will Live"

Sending Forth

The Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel

One: The Spirit of God is upon us!

All: God has anointed us to bear good news to the heavy-burdened,

One: to bind up the brokenhearted,

All: to proclaim freedom to the captives,

One: to open the prisons of those who are bound.

All: So let us go forth serving all God's people in peace. Amen!

2017-18 Nollau Leadership Institute Class

Lorren Buck
Eden Theological Seminary

Jason Emerson
United Caring Services

Maria Coyne
Cornerstone Fund

Deb Veit
Oak Meadows

Robert Symanski
United Church Homes & Services

Beth Montgomery
United Church Homes

Stacey Rhodes
St. Johns Community Care

Erin Foos
United Church Homes

Denene Shimkus
CHAMP Homes

LaVonne Mickelson
Retirement Housing Foundation

Bob Fard
Retirement Housing Foundation

Nichelle Simmons
UCAN

Mary Paxton
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Missy Fountain
Uspiritus

Pam Harden
Unleashing Potential

Nicole Pretre
Cedar Community

Jennifer Hawley
Orion Family Services

Julie Jennings
Every Child's Hope

Harold Eich II
Embrace Living Communities

All music today was written and performed by **The Revs. Julie Jennings and Susan Drake**. Susan Drake and Julie Jennings are both ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ. Susan currently serves as a hospice chaplain with Mercy Hospice in St. Louis, MO. Julie is the chaplain and volunteer coordinator at Every Child's Hope, also in St. Louis. Partners in life and in music, Susan and Julie have been writing and singing songs together since 1999.

Our Reflection provided by **The Rev. Sheila Guillaume**, Pastor of Union Congregational Church, West Palm Beach, FL. Prior to her joining Union Congregational Pastor Sheila was a Hospice Chaplain for several years with VITAS Healthcare. She served, as Interim Pastor at Christ Congregational UCC in Palmetto Bay, Florida from July through October of 2008, and for several years, she was the Associate Minister of Christian Education and Youth at the First Church of Suffield Congregational UCC in Suffield, Connecticut. Rev. Guillaume was consecrated as a Diakonal Minister in 2015.

Our Table was presided over by **The Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel**, Conference Minister of the Missouri MidSouth Conference of the UCC. Rev. Brown Daniel has served two UCC churches - the first in Maryland and then in Houston, Texas. She served as Moderator of the South Central Conference while serving the Houston congregation, and previously served on the Board of the Mid Atlantic Conference, and was Moderator of their Annual Meeting. Called to ministry while a student at Auburn University, Ginny attended Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond in Richmond, VA. In 2003 she was called to Plymouth United Church of Christ in Spring, TX, she served there until May, 2015 when she left to pursue a consulting business called Divine Sparks Consulting. Ginny also received a Doctor of Ministry from Union Presbyterian Seminary.